- **NEWS / A16**

Guess who came to Palace? Time reporter being hunted by DOJ

- **BUSINESS / B1**

Exports jumped 18.7% in April to $3.85B; 4-month shipments up to $14.75B

- **METRO / A18**

Movie theater designed by National Artist Pablo Antonio faces demolition

- **SAT. SPECIAL / A2-1**

Jennifer Aniston now a bankable star; her latest starrer is 'giant-killer'

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Saturday, June 10, 2006 ★★ 8 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 182 P18 website: www.inq7.net

DENR's partners' lounge turns into room of discord

MAGKA-SALUNGAT PA RIN!

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENvironment and Natural Resources launched yesterday the Kabalikat lounge, where environmentalists, nongovernment organizations and business partners

DENR'S/ A9

GMA-Senate mutual distrust resulted in failed budget

By Michael Lim Ubac, TJ Burgonio and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

ADMINISTRATION REP. JOEY SALCEDA, A CLOSE presidential ally and economic adviser, yesterday said the failed budget process was "a product of [the] mutual suspicion" between President Macapagal-Arroyo and the senators.

Salceda, who headed the House panel in the

GMA-SENATE/ A8

SC error led to execution

Cops' quick verdict: No 'jueteng' in Pineda blast

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CAMP OLIVAS, PAMPANGA—AN early morning explosion yesterday damaged the steel gate of the house of alleged gambling king Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda, but police quickly dismissed the incident as an upshot of a turf war among the country's supposed "jueteng" lords.

Pineda and his family were at their Metro Manila home at the time of the blast, which occurred eight days after two powerful explosions in Batangas province nearly killed Gov. Armando Sanchez, also an alleged gambling lord.

Both Pineda and Sanchez have denied any involvement in the illegal numbers racket.

Central Luzon police director Chief Supt. Ismael Rafanan indicated he saw no link between the two incidents.

"Definitely, there's no turf war between Mr. Pineda and Governor Sanchez because in the first place, reports we received showed that not one of them is active or in any way involved now in jueteng," Rafanan told the INQUIRER.

Still, Rafanan said, he was leaving that angle for the Batan

COPS'/ A8

HAVE BATONS, WATER CANNONS, WILL DISPERSE
Peasant groups clash with antiriot police as they reach Mendiola Bridge to express their outrage against the killings of their colleagues with alarming regularity. In the past two days alone, two militant leaders were killed, one in Isabela on Thursday night and in Sorsogon the following day. *(Story on Page A2.)*
REM ZAMORA

Echegaray should have lived, says Chief Justice

By Armand N. Nocum

CHIEF JUSTICE ARtemio Panganiban has admitted that there may have been a "judicial error" in the death of Leo Echegaray, the first convict to be executed following the passage of Republic Act No. 7659 or the death penalty law.

Seven years after his death by lethal injection, Echegaray should not have been executed, Panganiban said. He should have been given life imprisonment because RA 7659 prescribes capital punishment for rape perpetrated by the "common-law spouse of the parent of the victim," a qualifying circumstance which was not alleged in the complaint.

Panganiban said the complaint alleged that the victim was the daughter of Echegaray. However, it was proven during the trial that he was not "a father, stepfather or grandfather" of the victim. The court nonetheless affirmed his death sentence.

Panganiban, who had consis-

SC ERROR/ A9

Worst still to come, Bulusan folk warned

By Bobby Labalan
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

CASIGURAN, SORSOGON—SCIentists yesterday warned Mount Bulusan could spew dangerous volcanic flows, after a farmer died of an asthma attack believed induced by ash falls.

The municipal council placed Casiguran under a state of calamity to prepare "for the worst that could happen," Mayor Edwin Hamor said.

He said preparations were under way for the evacuation of about 8,000 residents from at least seven villages in case of a major eruption, according to the Associated Press.

The calamity declaration was also intended to speed up the delivery of assistance and facilitate clearing up operations in affected areas, Hamor said.

Hamor identified the fatality as Vicente Guevarra, 55, a farmer of Barangay San Juan this town—the first fatality to be reported around Bulusan following the volcano's eruption on Wednesday night.

The eruption reduced visibility in Casiguran to zero.

"He (Guevarra) is an indirect

WORST/ A6

LYN RILLON

MAGNIFCENT 7 MINUS ONE: As expected no member of Fernando Poe's family is present to receive the National Artist Award for Film from President Arroyo (center) at the Palace. The other awardees flanked (leftmost) by CCP Chair Emily Abrera and (extreme right) NCCA Chair Ambeth Ocampo are from left, Benedicto Cabrera (painting); Ramon Obusan (dance); Bienvenido Lumbera (literature); Ildefonso Santos Jr. (architecture); Lourdes Valera- Zulueta (proxy for her deceased brother Ramon Valera, awardee for fashion design) and Abdulmari Asia Imao (sculpture). *(Story on Page A16.)*

DepEd's madrasah program teaches vital values to Muslim kids

Jocelyn R. Uy

A YEAR AGO, 10-YEAR-OLD SAhadia was on her teacher's list of unruly students.

Sahadia would ignore her ustadz (teacher) even if she bumped into her in the hallway. She would slap her seatmate for no reason and would get into catfights. She would also stuff candy wrappers in between the cracks on her table.

Things changed after a year of attending the Madrasah program at the Maharlika Elementary School in Taguig City, according to Salima Guimba, an ustadz handling Sáhadia's Islamic values and Arabic language class.

Guimba said that through the Madrasah program, an ustadz would be able to teach children vital things that their parents neglected to impart to them.

"Most of the parents cannot attend to their children because they are busy earning a living selling goods , in Baclaran and Greenhills," she said.

The Department of Education

DEPED'S/ A6

Lawyers argue: Would a rapist use a condom?

By Volt Contreras and Tarra V. Quismundo

WOULD A RAPIST USE A CONdom?

The lawyers of the four US Marines accused of raping a Filipino woman raised the question yesterday to reporters after a prosecution witness recalled having recovered a "used condom" in the parking lot where "Nicole" was dumped by her alleged abusers.

But in a separate interview, private prosecutor Evalyn Ursua had a snappy reply to the question: Yes, rape can be committed even by someone who's mindful of "safe sex."

The off-court exchange followed the testimony of Subic Bay Freeport security officer Jaime Avila Jr., who recounted in direct examination before Judge Benjamin Pozon of the Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 139 how he saw and picked up "evidence" of "possible molestation."

On cross-examination, Avila conceded that he could not tell where the condom came from,

LAWYERS/ A6

US confirms Zarqawi betrayed by his own

BAGHDAD, IRAQ—IN RECENT weeks, United States officials said, they had begun following a man who they believed could lead them directly to Abu Musab al-Zarqawi: His "spiritual adviser," a man named Sheikh Abd al-Rahman.

A member of al-Zarqawi's network, captured by the Americans, had told them that the sheik was al-Zarqawi's most trusted adviser.

Some weeks ago, US officials said, they began tracking al-Rahman with a remotely piloted aircraft, hoping he would lead them to their quarry.

"This gentleman was key to our success in finding Zarqawi," said Maj. Gen. William Caldwell, the spokesperson for the US military in Baghdad. "Through painstaking intelligence effort, they were able to start tracking him, monitoring his movements and establishing when he was doing his link-ups with Zarqawi."

Yet for all the excitement, one critical piece of the puzzle still remained: The Americans might be able to track al-Rahman, but how would they know when he was meeting with al-Zarqawi?

The Americans had gotten close before, but al-Zarqawi managed to escape.

What the Americans had always lacked was someone inside al-Zarqawi's network, al-Qaida

US CONFIRMS/ A8

PROOF OF DEATH: Photo of the body of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi is on display at a press conference in Baghdad conducted by US military spokesperson, Maj. Gen. William Caldwell.
AP

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 2006

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONT PAGE

Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

COMPILED BY KATE V. PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/06/09/06 SOURCE PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Cops, farmers clash in Mendiola

By Margaux C. Ortiz

A FAMILIAR STREET CONFRONTATION AT THE foot of Mendiola Bridge was reenacted yesterday and for both sides, ended in what has become a pointless conclusion.

Some 500 militant farmers determined to take their protest against what they called "a bogus land reform program" straight to the doorstep of Malacañang yesterday were twice dispersed by Manila riot policemen equally resolved not to let them have their way on their watch.

The protesters, members of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP), Bayan, Bayan Muna, Anakpawis and Migrante, staged their march-rally as the government marked the 18th anniversary of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

"The CARP is nothing but a bogus program to appease farmers who are being displaced from their lands," KMP information officer Carl Ala said.

The protesters cried harassment when the police prevented them from stepping on Mendiola Bridge, the heavily-protected approach to Malacañang.

They had gathered in front of the University of Santo Tomas at around 9:00 a.m. but were blocked on P. Noval Street as they marched by the Manila Police District's (MPD) Civil Disturbance Management unit.

Police moved to disperse the protesters near Nicanor Reyes (Morayta) street. In the clash, at least four protesters and two policemen were injured.

The militants then retreated to Espana street corner P. Campa street, where they held a program undisturbed until 11:30 a.m.

"We will not allow the protesters to go further. They initiated the violence," Sr. Supt. Danilo Abarzosa, MPD operations chief, said in an interview at the time.

But immediately after the program, the militants began to march, passing through P. Noval and Bustillos streets and reaching the intersection in front of Mendiola Bridge at 12:05 p.m.

The police gave the group five minutes to leave the area. A second clash between protesters and policemen ensued. Thereafter, the police dispersed the crowd using water cannons.

"The dispersal on Espana street and Mendiola Bridge showed the real fascist character of the Macapagal-Arroyo regime," KMP information officer Carl Ala, said.

Danilo Ramos, KMP secretary general, said the militants had a right to hold the protest action. "We applied for a rally permit last month, but it had not been acted upon," he said as he presented a copy of the groups' request letter addressed to Manila Mayor Lito Atienza.

Ramos was drawing attention to the law on public assembly, which states that if a local chief executive fails to act on a permit application within two working days, the permit is deemed granted.

"We were forced to run to Bustillos Street and hold the rest of our program near the church," Ala said.

At least 16 militants suffered a variety of injuries, including wounds and contusions.

SC reverses Sandigan, upholds Romualdez seat in Equitable board

By Armand N. Nocum

THE SUPREME COURT YESTERDAY overturned a Sandiganbayan ruling which barred the Romualdez-owned Trans Middle East Equities Inc. (TMEE) from voting its shares in Equitable-PCI Bank during the bank's recent annual stockholders meeting.

In a 34-page decision, the high tribunal also declared as invalid the election during the May 23, 2006 EPCIB annual stockholders' meeting of another nominee to the bank's board of directors to which the TMEE is entitled to a representation.

The court also directed the EPCIB board and the bank's corporate secretary to recognize the nominee of TMEE to the board as a duly elected member of the board in place of the person who was elected during the May 2006 stockholders meeting.

"Clearly, TMEE is entitled to one seat on the board of directors of EPCIB. There is the option of annulling the entire election, but such step would be too drastic in light of the fact that only one of the 15 seats should be necessarily affected upon the seating of TMEEs nominee to the board of directors. The more prudent step on the part of the Court is to declare that one nominee or representative of TMEE is entitled to be seated immediately on the board," the SC said.

The resolution, penned by Associate Justice Dante Tinga, was voted upon by 13 of the 15 members of the high court.

A day before the EPCIBs annual stockholders' meeting, the Sandiganbayan issued a ruling declaring that a temporary restraining order issued 14 years ago, remained in effect, thus, disqualifying TMEE majority owned by the Romualdez family from voting its shares and electing its representative to the board.

This prompted the TMEE to file a petition with the High Court seeking to reverse the ruling of the anti-graft court barring them from voting the disputed shares at EPCIB.

TMEE said it owned 51.8 million EPCIB shares, equivalent to 7.13 percent of the bank's total outstanding capital stock.

On April 15, 1986, some 6,119,067 shares were sequestered by the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) on suspicion they were acquired illegally by Benjamin 'Kokoy' Romualdez, brother-in-law of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos.

These shares are now subject of a recovery case pending before the Sandiganbayan.

According to court, there is no serious dispute that TMEE would have been entitled to one seat on the 15-man board had it been able to vote its shares.

"However, relying on the null and void resolution of the Sandiganbayan, respondents board of directors and corporate secretary deprived TMEE from voting its shares and electing its nominee or representative to the board of directors," the SC decision said.

Joker: GMA not to blame for cut in HR compensation

By TJ Burgonio

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO should not be blamed for the P3-billion reduction in the proposed compensation for human rights victims of martial law, administration Sen. Joker Arroyo said.

Party-list Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales the other day accused Malacañang of ordering the reduction of the amount from P11 billion to P8 billion when House Bill 3315 was being finalized. The House passed its version of the bill early this week.

Arroyo recalled that the subject of the P8-billion compensation figure cropped up during the Senate budget hearings in January.

He said the then Budget Secretary Romulo Neri and Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said they would correct it.

Arroyo said the House proponents of the measure should have taken their cue from the two officials before finalizing the bill.

"You can't blame the President for everything," the senator said.

According to Rosales, who chairs the human rights committee, the House bill originally provided for $200 million (or P11 billion at P55 to the dollar exchange rate in 2004) but the House leaders, allegedly on Palace orders, changed the denomination into pesos and fixed the amount at P8 billion.

Rosales said she felt she had to comply or the bill would not have passed. She said she also expected the amount to be restored to P10 billion at the bicameral conference.

The Senate version, SB 1745, which is still being debated, sets the amount at $200 million.

Arroyo said that during the budget hearings he called the attention of Neri and Teves to the fact that only P8 billion had been allocated for rights abuse victims.

The two said that the President had given instructions to set aside this amount for the victims back in January 2004 when the recovered Marcos Swiss deposits were turned over to the National Treasury.

According to Arroyo, when he reminded them that the amount of $200 million was specified in the bill that the President had certified, Neri said this could still be corrected.

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Mark Jimenez can nail Erap even more – Chavit

By Leila B. Salaverria

ILOCOS SUR GOVERNOR LUIS "Chavit" Singson believes the testimony of Mark Jimenez will help the prosecution, but will not be needed to win the plunder case against former President Joseph Estrada.

Singson said that if Jimenez took the witness stand, the latter's testimony would still be "very important" because of his knowledge of the Jose Velarde bank account.

"Legally, he does not need to testify because the case is already good. But if he testifies, that would nail (Estrada) even more," Singson told reporters at the Ambassador Hotel forum in Manila.

He said Jimenez's testimony would reveal the people who deposited money into the Jose Velarde account at the Equitable PCI-Bank.

"Mark Jimenez knows a lot about the billions and billions that went into that account so if he testifies, he would be a very important witness," Singson said. "He's an insider, he knows everything. I only mentioned the name of one depositor, but (Jimenez) knows many of them."

Estrada earlier admitted to signing as Jose Velarde, but maintained he did it as a favor to friend Jaime Dichaves, who he claimed owned the bank account.

The former president had been accused of using the said bank account to conceal his ill-gotten wealth, an allegation he had denied. Estrada was ousted as president and subsequently charged with plunder following Singson's exposé about the former's alleged receipt of kickbacks from the tobacco excise tax.

Singson also said he was not the one who convinced Jimenez to attend Estrada's plunder trial hearing on Wednesday, adding Jimenez had long wanted to do so.

Jimenez was once described by Estrada as a "corporate genius." But the formerly amicable relationship with the ex-President has apparently turned sour, with Jimenez calling Estrada a "traitor" and "full of lies" while Estrada called Jimenez a character hard to describe.

Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio informed the court he might present Jimenez to rebut Estrada's testimony, a move which the defense objected to.

Jimenez, for his part, told reporters on Wednesday that he did not want to testify against Estrada because the latter was "already guilty."

Meanwhile, Singson said yesterday that he was opposed to house arrest for the former President because the latter was already enjoying house arrest at his Tanay, Rizal rest house.

"I don't like (Estrada) being given a lot of privileges. In other countries, when there are cases against presidents, they are in uniform and are in handcuffs. But here, he is in a rest house," he said.

Singson also said he did not care if Estrada would be pardoned later, as long as he would be convicted first.

Gov wants 'jueteng' legalized

By Leila B. Salaverria

SINGSON

THOSE WHO OPPOSE THE legalization of "jueteng" are unknowingly helping gambling lords get what they want, according to Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson.

Singson said that by keeping jueteng illegal, the government is depriving itself of the income that it could have earned from running the numbers game.

"Those who are anti-legalization unknowingly give help to the jueteng lords. These jueteng lords don't want the game legalized because part of their income would go to the government," Singson said at the Ambassador Hotel forum.

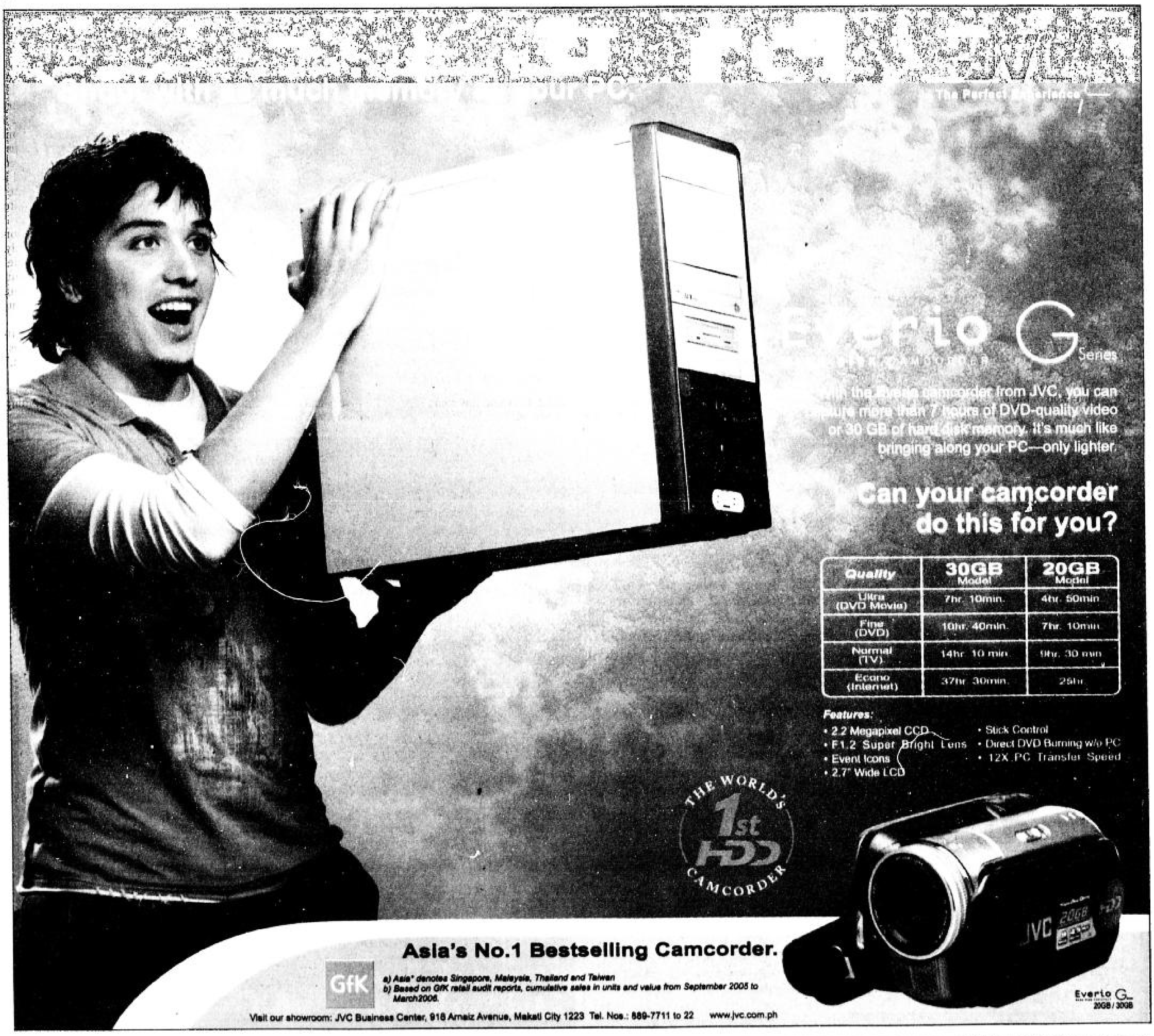
He also said yesterday that he believes that jueteng has returned but he does not think that the setup was the same during the time of former President Joseph Estrada, when he claimed jueteng operations were centralized and protected.

"Now, the operators work on their own," he said.

The Ilocos Sur governor had testified in Estrada's plunder trial that he had acted as the custodian of Estrada's monthly take from jueteng operations when the latter was president. His exposé eventually led to Estrada's ouster and the filing of plunder charges against him.

Singson said yesterday that jueteng should be legalized and run by the government because it provides jobs to the community.

"This should be legalized because it helps a lot of people," he said.



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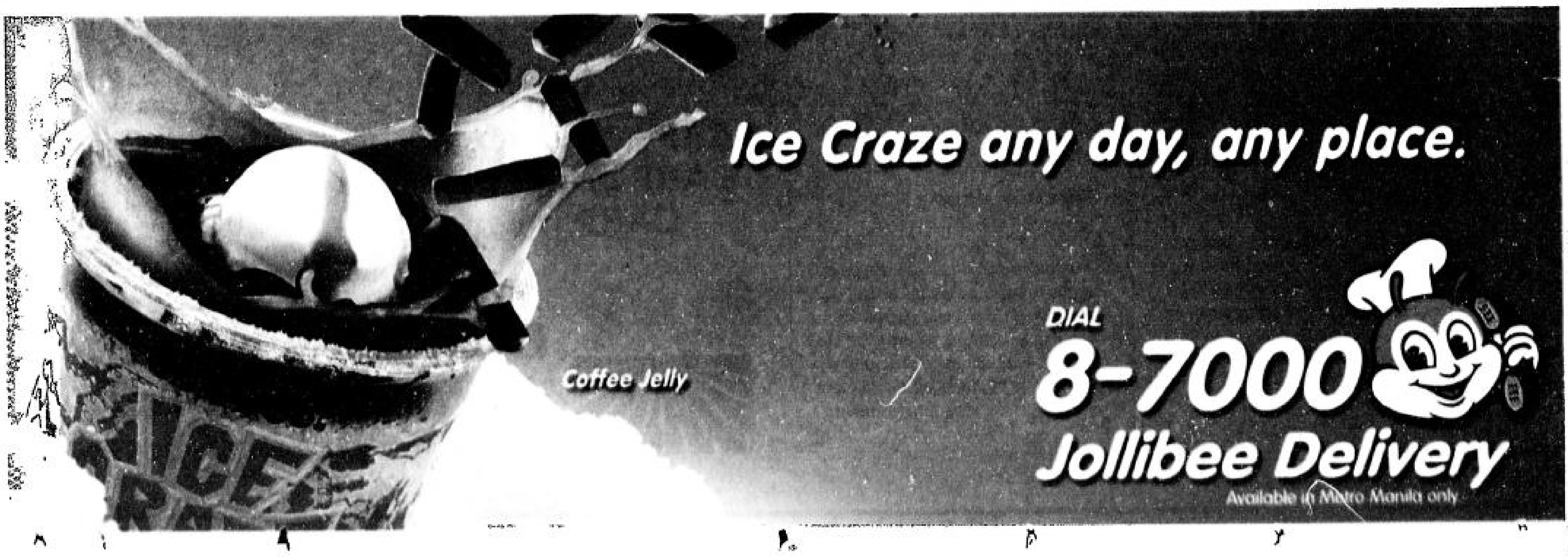


Agrarian Reform Beyond 2008

> "I wish for the sustained success of our farmers in agrarian reform communities.
> "Palakasin natin an gating kanayunan upang itaguyod ang ating kasaganaan at kaunlaran."
>
> ---Pres. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo

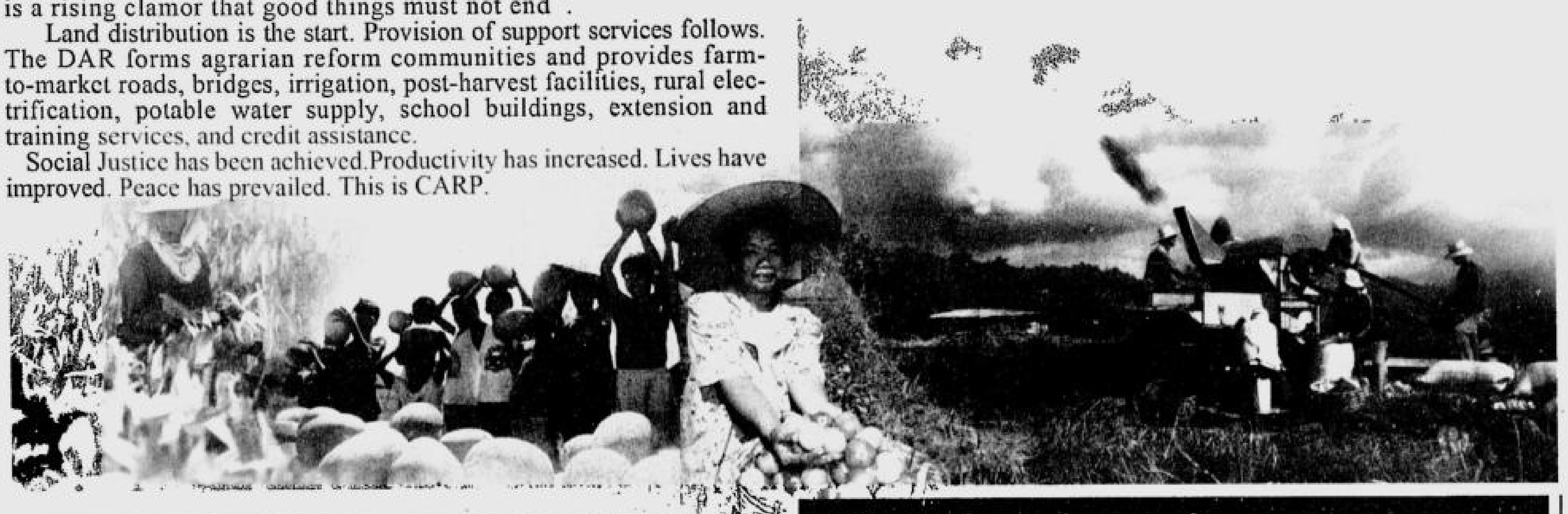
> "CARP is a continuing program. As the program progresses, it gathers more steam with more support coming in from various institutions. Sa pagpapa-unlad ng mga komunidad sa buong bansa, kinakailangan ang higit na suportang serbisyo at tuloy-tuloy na repormang agraryo.
>
> --- Secretary Nasser C. Pangandaman

The Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) is 18 years this week. As of December 2005, the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) has secured the land tenure of 2.13 million farmers through the distribution of 3.7 million hectares of agricultural lands nationwide.

The DAR commits to distribute the remaining 600,000 hectares of agricultural lands by 2008, the program's perceived closure. But there is a rising clamor that good things must not end .

Land distribution is the start. Provision of support services follows. The DAR forms agrarian reform communities and provides farm-to-market roads, bridges, irrigation, post-harvest facilities, rural electrification, potable water supply, school buildings, extension and training services, and credit assistance.

Social Justice has been achieved. Productivity has increased. Lives have improved. Peace has prevailed. This is CARP.



CARP gains International Support

- P42.6-B resources mobilized for infrastructure and support services in ARCs
- 32 projects worth P12.67-B completed
- 22 projects worth P28.5-B are on-going
- 2 new projects are being implemented in 93 ARCs in regions 7, 9, 12 and ARMM
- International funding institutions helping agrarian reform are:
  - ↳ World Bank
  - ↳ Australian Aid
  - ↳ European Union
  - ↳ State of Israel
  - ↳ Japan-PHRD
  - ↳ Government of Belgium
  - ↳ Government of Spain
  - ↳ Asian Development Bank
  - ↳ Governmen t of Germany
  - ↳ United Nations Development Program
  - ↳ Japan Bank for International Cooperation
  - ↳ International Food Aid Development
  - ↳ Japan Social Development Fund
  - ↳ World Bank-Japan Social Development Fund
- 1,784 agrarian reform communities developed nationwide
- 5,053 farmers' organizations formed with 497,293 members

What independent studies say:

- Agrarian Reform Community Development Project (ARCDP) interventions made positive and significant changes on the lives of the rural households in 56 ARCDP communities
- Peoples' organizations and agrarian reform beneficiaries (POs/ ARBs) have superior performance
- POs/ARBs have higher income, asset value, area planted, credit availment and farm productivity than the POs/ARBs in non-ARCDP areas.
- Poverty incidence among the POs/ARBs is lower and the proportion of respondents who have positive perception about socio-economic condition is higher in ARCDP sites
- Total nominal income of all respondents increased by 32.4%

--Impact assessment study on World Bank's Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project

- 20.1% increase in the farmers' income
- 36% increase in average rice production
- 34% reduction in farmers' transport cost
- 58% reduction in farmers' travel time
- 152% increase in water availability for potable drinking

--Urbis Philippines, Inc., an independent group commissioned by the Development Bank of the Philippines to determine the impact of the Agrarian Reform Infrastructure Support Project

- Strong increase in owner-cultivatorship among agrarian reform beneficiaries as well as the non-agrarian reform beneficiaries
- Significant declines in share tenancy, leaseholding, and incidence of owner cultivatorship
- Farmers and landowners more confident to invest more on physical and human capital
- Being an agrarian reform beneficiary and being in an agrarian reform community reduces one's chances of being poor
- Agrarian reform communities, if properly implemented, improve the economic condition, social capital, civic entrepreneurship, and democratic participation of the communities
- Reduction of social conflicts and increased peace and order

-- Integrated Report on the CARP Assessment Studies by the Institute of Agrarian and Rural Development Studies of the University of the Philippines, the Philippine Institute of Development Studies (PIDS) and the Institute of Philippine Culture (IPC) of the Ateneo de Manila

What farmers say:

Arturo Germanes
Gumaca, Quezon

"Sa ilalim ng voluntary land transfer ay nagkaroon ako ng pag-asa na maka-ahon sa hirap. Marami akong natutuhang teknolohiya at pagsasanay para makatulong sa amin. Sa ngayon, me dagdag na kita na ako dahil sa pagtatanim at pag-aalaga ng mga manok.Salamat sa DAR."

Aldrin C. Agbayani
Vintar, Ilocos Norte

"Bilang anak ng CARP beneficiary, pinalad po akong magtapos ng pag-aaral sa ilalim ng President Diosdado Macapagal Agrarian Scholarship Program ng DAR sa kursong Bachelor of Science in Agriculture. Plano ko pong tulungan ang aking pamilya sa pamamagitan ng lahat ng aking napag-aralan lalo na sa vegetable production, goat raising, tamang pag-gamit ng organic pesticides at fertilizers, at pag-ipon ng capital para makapag-negosyo."

Romulo Arangel
Balanga, Bataan

"Lagi akong nag-iimpok galing sa kinikita ko sa pagsasaka. Natutuwa ako dahil sa greenhouse facility na kaloob ng DAR, nagagawa ko ring matulungan ang iba pang magsasaka sa ilalim ng Lakbay Aral, na matuto ng ibat-ibang paraan ng pagtatanim at pagpapalago ng kabuhayan."

Domingo Bazar
Bato, Camarines Sur

"Pagmamahal sa gawain at pag-iimpok para sa kinabukasan ang susi upang pangalagaan ang lupang kaloob ng DAR sa mga magsasakang tulad ko. Masaya ako dahil mas stable na ang pamilya ko at marami na akong pwedeng ibahagi sa kapwa ko magsasaka dito sa Camarines Sur, tungkol sa seed growing, hybridization technology, crop rotation at pagnenegosyo ng produktong pang-agrikultura."

Cesar Dominicina
Sorsogon City

"Naging interesado ako na magtanim ng pili sa ilalim ng niyog kasi dagdag ito sa aking kinikita sa pagsasaka. Napakaganda nitong proyekto ng DAR, nakakatulong talaga sa tao. Siguro, pagkatapos ng limang taon, marami akong aanihin na pili. Sako-sako!

CARP helps people change their lives.
CARP brings prosperity and peace.
CARP must go beyond 2008.

DAR

Department of Agrarian Reform
Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City

Noli seeks to expand RP-China trade, travel

By Cynthia D. Balana

VICE PRESIDENT NOLI DE CASTRO YESTERday asked local officials of Jiangshu province and Shanghai in China to help promote trade, tourism and travel between the two countries.

De Castro made the pitch for tourism promotion during his courtesy call on Jiangsu and Shanghai officials in his ongoing official visit in China.

During their meetings, De Castro conveyed to Chinese officials the Philippine government's intention of expanding relations with the different provinces and cities of China.

"Maybe our local travel agents can forge ties with their counterparts in Jiangsu and Shanghai to spur tourism traffic between the Philippines and their respective destinations," he said.

De Castro sought the assistance of Jiangsu's and Shanghai's respective governments to encourage state-owned companies and other enterprises to invest in the Philippines and participate in the government's development efforts.

"For the past decade, trade between our two countries has progressed steadily, but we would like to further increase the Philippines' share in your foreign trade," he said.

He said the government had undertaken efforts to attract more investments by developing infrastructure, streamlining processes and introducing policy reforms to create a more investment-friendly environment.

In particular, he said, the Philippines encourages investments in motor vehicle parts and components, electronics, textile manufacturing and agriculture.

The Vice President also cited the Philippine's "high-quality professional services in information technology, engineering, architectural design and construction management."

"The Philippines recognizes our countries' strengths in those areas, and I hope that businessmen from both sides would explore opportunities in the two countries," he said.

De Castro conveyed the government's desire to strengthen cooperation with China in the areas of information exchange and investment promotion networking through the relevant offices and institutions in the Chinese provinces and cities.

Bishops hit mention of condoms in public school's sex education

THE INFLUENTIAL ROMAN CATHOLIC church yesterday criticized the Philippine government's mention of artificial contraceptives, particularly condoms, in school sex education courses.

A letter from the Catholic bishops' commission on family life said the inclusion of contraceptives in lessons taught to teenagers was "disturbing."

The letter, sent to the education department, said the sex education course "claims to foster values, restraint and responsibility yet it implies that sexual activity outside of marriage may be acceptable for as long as it does not result in unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted (diseases)."

It singled out the mention of condoms in the lessons, saying the department failed to mention that condoms were not "100 percent," effective in protecting against sexually transmitted diseases.

Sex education is being integrated in lessons on science, health and civics in government-run schools starting this month. *AFP*

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LESSONS in Arabic, cleanliness, moderation, Islamic values, Allah and "Assalamu alaikum" (Peace be with you) at the Maharlika Elementary School in Taguig City.

EDWIN BACASMAS

DepEd's madrasah program teaches …

From page A1

had offered the Madrasah curriculum early last year to selected public schools across Metro Manila. Sahadia's school, where 90 percent or 1,620 students are Muslims, was among the institutions where the program was introduced.

Included in the Madrasah curriculum were lessons in Arabic language and Islamic values, in addition to regular subjects in the elementary curriculum—English, Mathematics, Science, Filipino and Makabayan.

Big difference

"There was a big change in the behavior of Muslim children in this school after they started taking up subjects in the Madrasah curriculum," Guimba told the INQUIRER in an interview.

Students practiced common courtesy. For example, they greeted their asatidz (plural for teacher) in Arabic whenever and wherever they encounter them. They would chase their teachers just to exchange a greeting of peace, she said.

The students no longer needed to be told to pick up their trash. They did it willingly, Guimba added.

When the Madrasah program began last year, most of those asatidz assigned to the school were appalled to learn that in a class of 40 students, only six had either a background on or a basic knowledge of the Arabic language, including the Islamic greeting, "Assalamu Alaikum (Peace be with you)."

In the Arabic language class, the first thing the nine asatidz taught their Grade 1 Muslim students was the greeting.

Greeting of peace

"In Islam, a greeting of peace must be imparted to a fellow Muslim once you meet him or her on the way," Guimba said.

Students were also taught the fundamental values that every Muslim should cultivate. One was cleanliness, which, Guimba pointed out, was rare in crowded Muslim neighborhoods.

"Honestly, most of the Muslim communities here have unkempt environment. So we teach our students the value of cleanliness because in Islam, it is half our creed," she said.

Vendetta, which was common among Muslims because of tribe mentality, had also found its way to the classrooms, Guimba said.

Value of moderation

"One moment you see students playing together. Next thing you know they're attacking and cursing each other," she said.

The asatidz addressed this problem by persistently teaching the value of moderation in their Islamic values class.

"We teach them that Islam doesn't go beyond moderation. Islam doesn't teach terrorism," Guimba stressed.

The Madrasah program in public schools was favorable among poor Muslim families who couldn't afford to send their children to private Madaris (plural for Madrasah).

Parents would have to pay P6,000 to P25,000 to enroll their children in a private madrasah, like the Maharlika Village Islamic Foundation Inc., which was established in 1983 by Muslim women who migrated with their husbands from Mindanao.

Understanding Islam

Learning the Arabic language and Islamic values was key to understanding Islam, said Zoraida Berago, principal of the private Madrasah.

"It is important that children learn Arabic because the Koran is written in that language," Berago said in a separate interview.

Prayers were also recited in Arabic.

Guimba said that Muslims, at an early age, must discern the true meaning of Islam and learn about Allah so they could exercise moderation and patience in daily life.

"It is essential that Islamic values are instilled in them while they are young so they can teach their own children in the future," she added.

Opportunities

There would be more opportunities for Muslim children who take up the Madrasah courses. They could become ulama (scholars), imams (priests) or asatidz in the future, Guimba said.

"They could be granted scholarships to study in Arab countries or they could also work there as teachers and engineers," she added.

Worst still to come, Bulusan folk warned

From page A1

victim of Bulusan volcano because his asthma attack was triggered by the heavy ash fall," Hamor said.

Guevarra's 20-year asthma condition was aggravated by exposure to the ash, said Dr. Salvador Destura, the municipal health officer.

At least 14 barangays suffered ash falls as thick as one half inch, according to the Municipal Disaster Coordinating Council.

Ash drifts 20 km

The ash falls damaged a number of houses but residents were staying put, emergency workers said, according to Agence France-Presse.

The exact number of houses damaged was not disclosed.

Traces of ash were reported as far as Sorsogon City, 20 km north of the volcano.

A plan by scientists of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) to fly over the 1,560-meter (5,149-foot) volcano to monitor changes around the summit and map out areas of fallen ash was postponed because a military helicopter did not arrive, the AP said.

Classes suspended

Classes in 23 elementary and secondary schools within a 9-km radius of Bulusan have been suspended, said Sorsogon division superintendent Nelly Beloso of the Department of Education.

Beloso said most of the affected schools were located in Casiguran and Juban towns northwest of the volcano.

Region 5 Director Celodonio Layon asked parents to remain in close touch with the DepEd Action Center and with the local government authorities for an advisory on the resumption of classes.

Warning on volcanic flows

He also advised parents to take precautionary measures for the safety of their children.

The Wednesday night eruption was Bulusan's fifth since March 21.

Although Bulusan was quieter yesterday, government volcanologists warned of the "possibility of life threatening volcanic flows."

Phivolcs said in a statement it "expects more explosions to occur, considering past eruption episodes, which span from one to several months."

4-km danger zone

It warned residents to avoid gullies, which lead to the middle and upper slopes, because they may contain hazardous volcanic mudslides, called lahars, and related volcanic flows.

During the 24 hours prior to yesterday, the institute recorded two low-frequency and one high-frequency volcanic earthquakes, while a steam plume reached a maximum height of 200 meters before drifting.

Phivolcs said the volcano remained in an abnormal state and warned residents to stay at least 4 km away from the crater.

"Phivolcs expects more explosions to occur" due to the rise of steam heated by magma beneath the mountain.

Phivolcs has raised to level 2 the five-stage alert over Bulusan, and OCD said it had distributed 1,000 face masks in the area, while calling in fire trucks to clear ash from roads.

Pacific ring of fire

Bulusan has had 15 recorded eruptions. Prior to this year, it last erupted in November 1994.

Twenty-two volcanoes are considered active in the Philippines, part of the so-called "Pacific ring of fire" made up of islands created by volcanic activity on the Western Pacific.

In June 1991, Mount Pinatubo in Luzon exploded in one of the world's biggest volcanic eruptions in the 20th century. *With reports from Alcuin Papa, AP, AFP*

Lawyers argue: Would a rapist use a condom?

From page A1

and that the idea that it could have been used in an act of sexual abuse was just suggested to him by "bystanders" who had gathered around the spot at the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority complex.

Avila's narrative appeared to support the earlier account of businessman Joseph Khonghun, another prosecution witness. Khonghun told the court on Thursday that he saw Nicole being taken out of a van by two of the accused Americans who held her by the legs and torso, with her pants pulled down and a "filthy condom" caught in her panty garter.

Possible evidence

Avila, a member of the SBMA bike patrol, said he spotted the condom on the ground "not far from the spot" where he saw Nicole weeping and embracing his fellow security officer, Noel Paule, at around 12:15 a.m. of Nov. 2, 2005, near the Telecom Building on Waterfront Road.

Minutes earlier, Paule radioed him while he was doing his rounds on Jefferson Street and asked him to proceed to the Telecom Building, added Avila.

When he got there, he saw Nicole and Paule, and about 50 onlookers.

"There was a possibility that the woman was molested, according to the bystanders who saw [her] being unloaded from the van. I inspected the place and saw a possible piece of evidence," Avila said.

Hearsay

He said he wrapped the condom in a piece of paper, put it in his pocket, and later turned it over to the SBMA Intelligence and Investigation Office.

Under cross-examination by defense lawyers, Avila was made to admit that he had merely heard of the possible molestation from the bystanders and that he never saw the van itself.

The lawyers again took a tack earlier used on Khonghun by asking Avila if he had heard Nicole ever mentioning rape.

Avila said she just wept a lot and did not speak.

Drawing strong objection from prosecutors and muffled laughter from the court audience, defense lawyer Benjamin Formoso asked Avila at one point: "Do you know who used the condom?"

Formoso downplayed Avila's testimony in an interview after the hearing: "[That there was a condom found] has nothing to do with rape. Will you still use a condom if you're going to commit rape?"

His co-counsel Jose Justiniano added in Filipino: "Can you easily commit rape if you have to put on a condom?"

Told of these remarks, prosecutor Ursua countered that someone who had "planned" to commit rape would still think of safe sex.

"It is not unusual for a rape to be committed using a condom," she said.

Distraught

At the stand, Paule depicted Nicole as distraught, terrified and wasted when he saw her at the parking lot, her pants below her knees, front side back.

"*Sinubukan ko siya kausapin pero bigla niya ako niyakap, tapos sabi niya sa akin, paulit-ulit, 'Dito ka lang, huwag mo ako iwan. Pag nalaman ito ng mama ko, papatayin niya ako. Sabi ko sa kanila, tama na, tama na, pero sige pa rin sila'* (I tried to talk to her but she suddenly embraced me, and told me repeatedly, 'Stay here, don't leave me. If my mama learns about this, she'll kill me. I told them to stop but they kept at it')," Paule said on direct examination.

Paule was the first law enforcer to see Nicole at the pier minutes after Staff Sergeant Chad Brian Carpentier and Lance Corporals Keith Silkwood, Dominic Duplantis and Daniel Smith allegedly conspired to rape her on board the van.

In her complaint, Nicole, 22, accused Smith of raping her at around 11:30 p.m. on Nov. 1, 2005, while Carpentier, Silkwood and Duplantis egged him on.

Paule said he was passing the parking lot on patrol when he saw Nicole surrounded by around eight persons. (Khonghun had testified that he and seven companions approached the woman on seeing her distraught on the pavement.)

"I asked her companions what happened to the woman. In my understanding, she was molested by the US servicemen," Paule said.

Asked to describe the woman when he saw her, Paule said: "*Para siyang lantang gulay* (Like a wilted vegetable)."

Trip ticket

Close to where he had found Nicole, Paule picked up a trip ticket on which was written "Starex van" and the company name "Starways Transport Service Inc."

He said he became suspicious when Khonghun and company told him that the woman had been unloaded from a Starex van. He decided to keep it as evidence for a "possible rape case."

Paule said he then radioed for backup. Around three to five minutes later, a mobile patrol car from the SBMA Law Enforcement Department (LED) arrived, with three law enforcers on board.

"We convinced the girl to board the patrol car. At first, she was hesitant, as if she was suffering from trauma. On our second try, she agreed to ride," he said.

But Nicole again ran to him, Paule said, and repeated her earlier plea: "Stay here, please don't leave me. If my mama learns about this, she'll kill me."

He said he finally convinced Nicole that she was safe with the LED, and succeeded in helping her into the pickup.

They then drove to the Intelligence and Investigation Office, where Paule submitted a handwritten statement.

The next day, he said, he submitted a sworn statement.

On cross-examination, defense lawyers were again able to elicit from Paule an admission that Nicole "never mentioned rape" throughout the time she was with him.

Justiniano also questioned Paule's failure to include in his sworn statement what Nicole told him when he found her, including her repeated pleas for help.

Reenactment

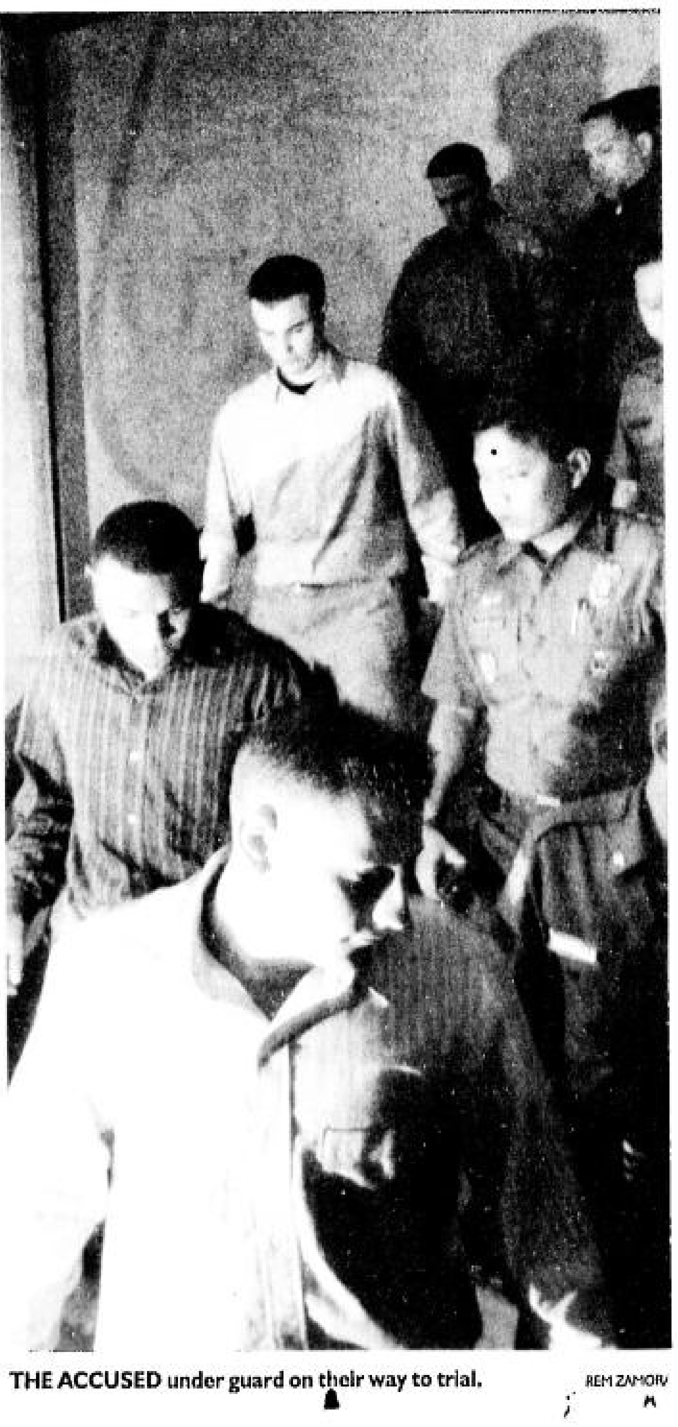
On the defense's request, prosecution witness Gerald Muyot, a security guard at the Neptune Bar, led a demonstration of how Daniel Smith supposedly loaded a barely conscious Nicole onto the van.

A court employee roughly as tall as Smith and another of Nicole's height and build played the role of the two during the reenactment, using the actual van (WKF-162) where the alleged rape occurred.

Muyot had testified to seeing Smith carrying a drunken Nicole piggyback as they made their way out of the Neptune between 11 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. on Nov. 1, 2005.

Judge Pozon also took the time to inspect the inside of the van, including the lights, switches and locks. On Justiniano's request, measurements of the interior were made.

"We were just after the space. We want to show that it was not possible for the incident to have happened with such limited space," Justiniano said.



THE ACCUSED under guard on their way to trial.

REM ZAMORA

AFP loses track of Abu Sayyaf leader

By Dona Pazzibugan

THE MILITARY HAS ADMITTED IT HAS lost track of Abu Sayyaf chieftain Khadaffy Janjalani, less than a year after claiming it was only a "matter of time" before it captures the wanted bandit leader.

Col. Tristan Kison, Armed Forces public information chief, said they can not confirm reports that Janjalani has moved to Jolo province or fled to Sabah, Malaysia.

He said they have no confirmed reports on Janjalani's whereabouts.

Janjalani, who carries twin bounties of US$1 million and P15 million on his head, was last reported to have been seen in Maguindanao.

As leader of the Abu Sayyaf Group that is responsible for several high-profile kidnappings and terrorist attacks, Janjalani is wanted by both the Philippine and United States governments.

"These are intelligence reports and at the moment (but) we don't have confirmatory reports about (Janjalani's) presence," Kison said.

We should also understand that these people are highly mobile. That is also their strategy to confuse the troops," he added.

On July 11 last year, the military declared that Janjalani and his men have been cornered in Talayan, Maguindanao.

Then AFP public information chief Lt. Col. Buenaventura Pascual said elite troops from the Light Reaction Company were on to Janjalani, and that it was a "matter of time" before they get the elusive Abu Sayyaf leader.

The military lately believes that Janjalani is with Indonesians Omar Patek and Dulmatin, alleged members of the Jemaah Islamiyah suspected of masterminding the 2002 Bali, Indonesia bombings.

PCGG chief's removal not true—Palace

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY Eduardo Ermita yesterday squelched speculation that Malacanang had replaced Presidential Commission on Good Government Chair Camilo Sabio with the high-profile Commissioner Ricardo Abcede.

Ermita told reporters that Sabio was merely abroad and that there was no plan at the moment to replace him.

Sabio is in Toronto, Canada, attending a conference on international law.

Ermita said he signed the travel authority for Sabio 10 days ago. He said this was what probably triggered the speculation on the changing of the guard at the PCGG.

No official word

The other day, reporters covering the PCGG received by fax copies of an apparent order from Malacañang designating Abcede as his boss' replacement.

According to the document dated June 5, Abcede was "appointed Acting Chairman, Presidential Commission on Good Government, Office of the President, vice Camilo L. Sabio." It carried the signature of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Sabio himself said on Thursday that he had yet to receive a copy of the supposed order, and that he did not believe such an order had been issued.

Nonetheless, he reiterated that he was serving at the pleasure of the President.

Abcede yesterday declined to comment, saying in effect that he did not want to add fuel to the fire.

Still, he said he had not received "any official com-uary, when he refused to answer questions on reported negotiations for compromise deals involving the Marcos assets and the estimated P100-billion coconut levy fund.

He invoked a provision in Executive Order No. 1, which created the PCGG, saying no officer or employee of the commission could be compelled to answer questions during a legislative inquiry. His silence led to a "zero budget" recommendation for the PCGG.

Abcede has pursued a similar tack and entered into talks for a compromise agreement with the Marcoses for a part of their wealth—estimated between $5 billion and $10 billion—in exchange for the dropping of charges against them. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Alcuin Papa*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, June 10, 2006
9th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 2 Tim 4:1-8
Gospel: Mark 12:38-44

As Jesus was teaching, he also said to them, "Beware of those teachers of the Law who enjoy walking around in long robes and being greeted in the marketplace, and who like to occupy reserved seats in the synagogues and the first places at feasts. They even devour the widow's and the orphan's goods while making a show of long prayers. How severe a sentence they will receive!"

Jesus sat down opposite the Temple treasury and watched the people dropping money into the treasury box; and many rich people put in large offerings. But a poor widow also came and dropped in two small coins.

Then Jesus called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all those who gave offerings. For all of them gave from their plenty, but she gave from her poverty and put in everything she had, her very living."

Commentary

We are to preach the Word always and we are to be faithful. We are not to alter it so that it's easier to take nor are we to make it what others want to hear, nor take the pieces we like and use them to back up what we want to say. It is there to transform us, convert us, make us obedient, call us to deeper love, love of enemies, neighbor, to deeds of holiness. We are not to use it on others, but let it be used on us so that we image Jesus more clearly.

Jesus is clear: the widow unknown to others who gave out of her very sustenance, her survival, is the one to observe, and not those who are flashy and public in what it means to be a believer. We are practicing to give our lives, not for public auditions.

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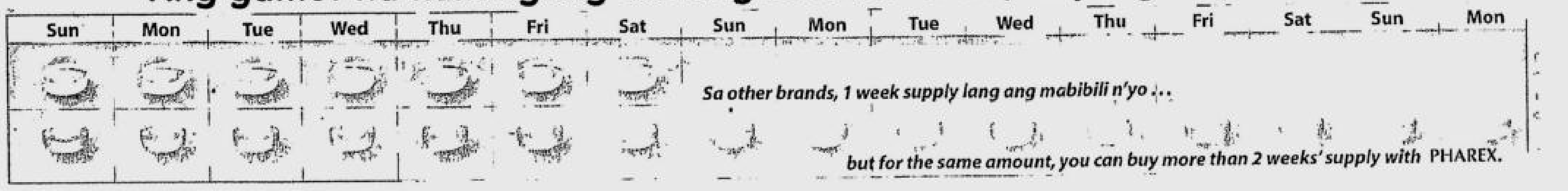

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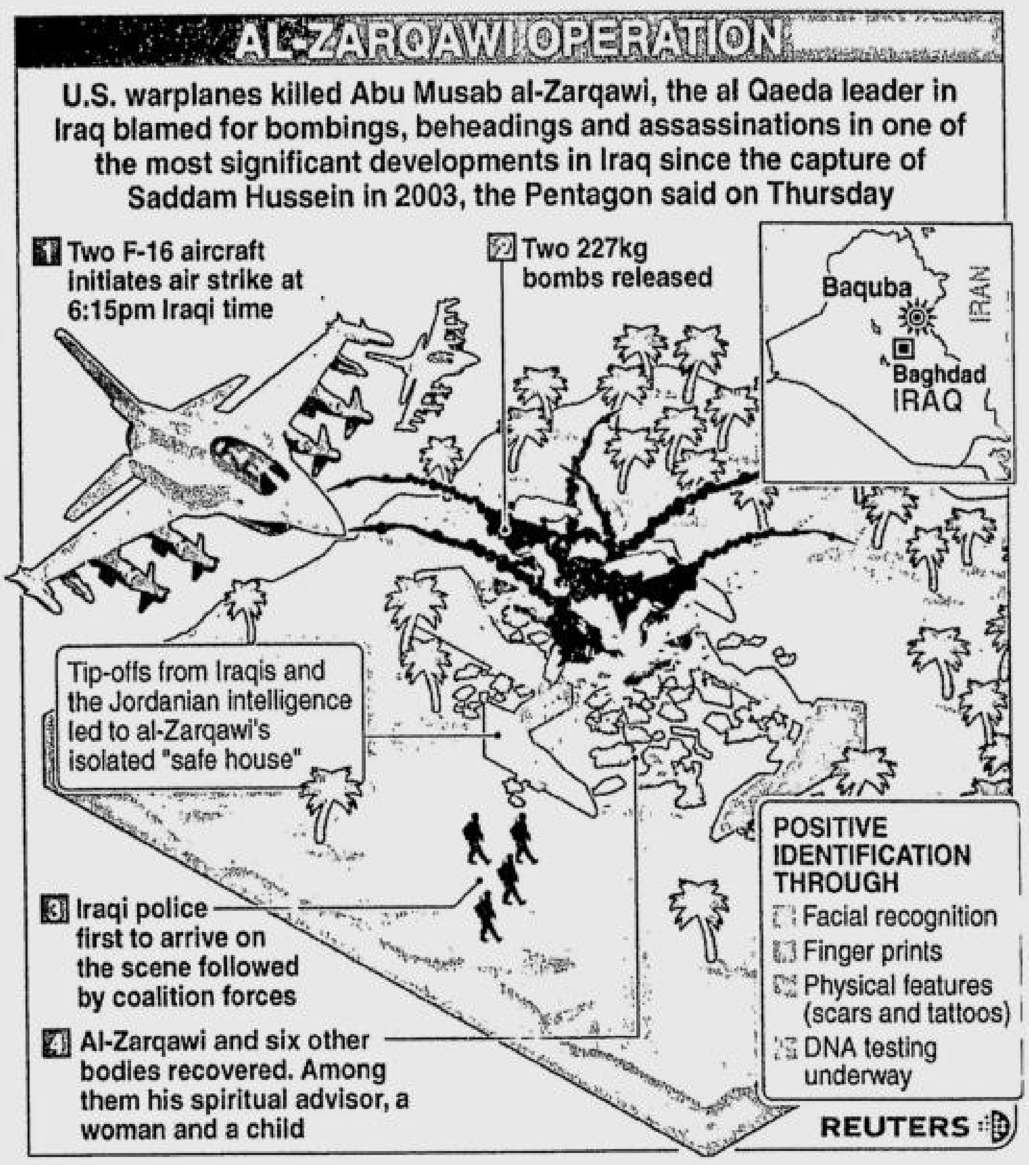
US confirms Zarqawi betrayed by his own

From page A1



AL-ZARQAWI OPERATION

U.S. warplanes killed Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the al Qaeda leader in Iraq blamed for bombings, beheadings and assassinations in one of the most significant developments in Iraq since the capture of Saddam Hussein in 2003, the Pentagon said on Thursday

1 Two F-16 aircraft initiates air strike at 6:15pm Iraqi time

2 Two 227kg bombs released

Tip-offs from Iraqis and the Jordanian intelligence led to al-Zarqawi's isolated "safe house"

3 Iraqi police first to arrive on the scene followed by coalition forces

4 Al-Zarqawi and six other bodies recovered. Among them his spiritual advisor, a woman and a child

POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION THROUGH
- Facial recognition
- Finger prints
- Physical features (scars and tattoos)
- DNA testing underway

REUTERS

in Mesopotamia, who would betray him—someone close enough and trusted enough to show the Americans where he was.

According to a Pentagon official, the Americans finally got one. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because details of the raid are classified, said that an Iraqi informant inside al-Qaida in Mesopotamia provided the critical piece of intelligence about al-Rahman's meeting with al-Zarqawi.

The source's identity wasn't clear—nor was it clear how that source was able to pinpoint al-Zarqawi's location without getting killed himself.

"We have a guy on the inside who led us directly to al-Zarqawi," the official said.

In a news release on Thursday morning, US military commanders hinted strongly that a member of al-Zarqawi's inner circle had pointed the way.

"Tips and intelligence from Iraqi senior leaders from his network led forces to al-Zarqawi," the news release said.

Sold out by one of his own

Iraqi officials confirmed that al-Zarqawi had indeed been sold out by one of his own.

"We have managed to infiltrate this organization," said Mowaffak al-Rubiae, Iraq's national security adviser. He declined to elaborate.

Just how the Americans were able to receive the information from the source was also unclear.

"We had absolutely no doubt whatsoever that al-Zarqawi was in the house," said Caldwel.. "There was 100 percent confirmation."

The decision to bomb al-Zarqawi was made in large part because military officials feared he might escape again if US and Iraqi forces moved in on the ground, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said during an appearance at Nato headquarters in Brussels.

2 bombs from fighter jet

A US Air Force F-16C Fighting Falcon fighter air craft dropped two 227 kg (500-pound) bombs on a house in a date-palm grove in a village north of Baghdad, killing the most-wanted man in Iraq, said Lt. Gen. Gary North, the top air commander in the region.

North, briefing Pentagon reporters by telephone from Qatar, said two F-16s were involved in the mission, but only one dropped bombs—a laser-guided GBU-12 and satellite-guided GBU-38 Joint Direct Attack Munition, or JDAM.

It was a "medium-altitude attack," North said, without being more specific.

The pilots were given the intelligence that led to the attack while they were flying a previously scheduled mission as part of the US military's strategy of keeping aircraft in the sky 24 hours a day, North said.

There were six people in the house, including a woman and a child, but only Zarqawi and Abdul-Rahman have been identified.

'Treasure trove of information'

Forensic experts are conducting a DNA test on al-Zarqawi and results are expected in 48 hours, Caldwell said.

Two photographs of the corpse of the bearded al-Zarqawi with his eyes shut were displayed at the news conference. His body lay in a pool of blood. His nostrils were filled with blood and there were gashes to his cheek and forehead.

A military video of the strike that killed al-Zarqawi was also presented.

Caldwell said important information was found at the location that led to 17 simultaneous raids later that night in Baghdad and its outskirts that uncovered a "treasure trove" of information.

Al-Zarqawi led Iraq's most-violent insurgent group that had killed thousands of Iraqis through relentless suicide bombings and organized attacks.

Many of the bombings were directed at large crowds of Shiites under a strategy US and Iraqi officials said was designed to trigger a civil war.

Possible successor

The former street thug from Jordan remained elusive despite several US military offensives, a $25-million US bounty on his head and the capture of what US officials said were several of his aides.

Caldwell said an Egyptian militant trained in Afghanistan named Abu al-Masari, who established the first al-Qaida cell in Baghdad, may succeed al-Zarqawi as head of the group in Iraq.

NYT, Reuters

Who will get $25M?

WASHINGTON—THE UNITED States government has not yet identified who will receive the $25-million reward offered for helping to capture or kill the late Iraq al-Qaida leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the State Department said Thursday (Friday in Manila).

"I've seen a lot of news reports that either a Jordanian individual or group provided information or perhaps a neighbor provided information which led to the strike being carried out successfully. I can't confirm those reports," said State Department spokesperson Sean McCormack.

"And I don't have any information at this point that would lead to this process starting up ... (it) hasn't been activated at this point," he added.

Al-Zarqawi, who orchestrated a bloody campaign of attacks and beheadings in Iraq, was killed Wednesday in an air strike on a safe house north of Baghdad, US and Iraqi officials said.

The State Department has offered numerous rewards for people aiding in the capture or death of al-Qaida leaders. Making the reward involves a formal process starting with a request from an involved government agency and then an investigation to see if the person deserves the reward.

Some $62 million has been paid out by the State Department's Rewards for Justice program to informants and others for helping capture terror suspects.

The program is offering $25 million for al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden. *AFP*

GMA-Senate mutual distrust resulted in failed budget

From page A1

bicameral conference committee that fought hard for the restoration of the P64 billion that the Senate cut out of the proposed P1.053-trillion budget, said the yearly national exercise of approving the budget was "a creature of political dynamics."

He said the process this year was underlain by Senate fears of being abolished because of the administration-driven move to change the Constitution and the prospects of the 2007 elections.

"Both [Malacañang and the Senate] waged systematic efforts to impair each other's competitive positions via a scorched earth or creeping decapitation strategy ahead of the 2007 elections," said Salceda.

'Bastardized'

Senators also deplored the failure of Congress yet again to approve a new budget, with maverick administration Sen. Joker Arroyo remarking that it meant Congress was losing the "power of the purse" to the Executive.

Arroyo lamented that the crucial process of legislating the national budget has been "bastardized."

"How easy it is now to resort to a reenacted budget," he said.

Arroyo noted how over the years the President has been chipping away at Congress' "power of the purse."

"The power of the President over the budget has accumulated over the years," he said.

Sen. Edgardo Angara said there should have been more flexibility among the members of the legislative bicameral committee.

"President Macapagal-Arroyo should also have been flexible instead of insisting that there should be no cut at all in the budget proposed by Malacañang," he said.

"It's not good to have a reenacted budget. The budget of 2005 was enacted to meet the needs of 2005. What was good for 2005 is not good for 2006. We have to have a new budget for 2006," he said.

Malacañang also blames politics for the failure of Congress to pass the national budget for 2006 but even its own staunchest congressional ally believes the Palace also bears some responsibility for the Executive-Senate impasse that made a reenacted 2005 budget a certainty.

"The reality is that while the Palace proposes, it is Congress that disposes. The fact that politics has stood in the path of the public interest is regrettable," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye.

The House had approved a P1.40-trillion budget in early April, but came around to supporting the P1.053 trillion originally proposed by Malacañang.

The Senate came out with a supposedly leaner version last week of P1.27 trillion, slashing P29 billion in programmed and P37 billion in unprogrammed appropriations.

'Tricameral' conference

Bicameral talks and backdoor negotiations between Salceda and his counterpart, Sen. Manuel Villar, to reconcile the two versions, bogged down last Monday.

SALCEDA: GMA set the tone

VILLAR: Failure of bicam

And just like in 2004, the government will be operating on a reenacted budget for the rest of the year.

Salceda, who chairs the House appropriations committee, said it was the President who set the tone for the bicameral conference.

"It's really a tricam [tricameral conference] since the Executive casts a shadow over the entire exercise," he said.

"Invariably, the House panel is [the] conduit of Executive intervention since we religiously adopt their budget proposal which inevitably becomes our position during the bicam," said Salceda.

Salceda said the President wanted "full restoration" of the budget cuts, or a "line-by-line" approval by the Senate, threatening to veto any budget measure that would come out of the bicameral talks.

'Tall order'

"That's a tall order, get a budget and abolish the Senate," he said, adding that he was "uncomfortable" negotiating "with people we openly wanted to abolish."

Summing up the political drama that attended the budget bicameral conference, Salceda said: "Politics is the big winner. Economics is the biggest loser. The masses pay the price for their complacency and bad choices."

He said passing supplemental budgets to address the problem of how to fund social services and infrastructure development under a recycled 2005 budget would be "like prescribing a cure for a disease we ourselves created."

In a political environment wracked by a continuing crisis of legitimacy, he said the several reenactments of the budget since Ms Arroyo came to power in 2001 were not only to be expected but "almost preordained."

Yesterday, Malacañang vowed to make sure it would deliver on key socioeconomic programs, even with fewer resources under a reenacted budget.

No flexibility

Bunye said that while a reenacted budget would mean less funds for public projects, the government would "see to it that the priorities of the people are not duly debilitated."

Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya rejected speculations that the reason the President opted not to call for a special session to resolve the bicameral deadlock was because a reenacted budget would give her more flexibility in spending.

"On the contrary, it restricts us as we are governed by the 2005 General Appropriations Act (GAA) when the 2006 budget gives us a higher spending ceilings and a wider menu of programs," Andaya said.

He said budget spending would not allow for deviations because all disbursements have to be GAA 2005-compliant.

"This would include urgent projects that need to be funded which the law allows us to undertake by tapping freed amounts arising from austerity measures. This way public service will not be affected and important programs are not derailed," Andaya said.

But he said Malacañang remained hopeful that Congress would work on approving the 2006 budget when it reopens in July.

GMA benefits

Angara said the President would benefit from the non-approval of the 2006 budget because she would have the "discretion to spend the additional revenue to be realized in 2006 over that in 2005."

But Sen. Ralph Recto disagreed, saying Malacañang would be "hurt" by a reenacted budget, which is lower by P146 billion than the current proposed outlay, and would be deluged with requests for additional funds.

"I don't think Malacañang will be better off with a new reenacted budget. It won't be able to realign as much funds as it wanted for basic services," said Recto, who chairs the Senate ways and means committee.

But he was optimistic that the Senate and Malacañang can thresh out their differences during the congressional break, even as he urged Palace officials to accept amendments to the budget.

Argument for Cha-cha

Some House legislators saw the failure of the budget approval process as the best argument for Charter change.

There will be no budget stalemate because of "obstructionist politics of some senators" once the constitutional amendments are in place because the structural defects of the political system will be corrected, said a statement from Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay and House Deputy Speaker for Mindanao Gerry Salapuddin.

House Speaker Jose de Venecia said the Senate's "mangling" of the budget wiped out the funds for the government's anti-poverty program aimed at creating jobs and activating rural entrepreneurship.

It was "deplorable" that the Senate "should sacrifice these programs with such lack of sensitivity," the Speaker said in a statement.

Cops' quick verdict: No 'jueteng' turf war in Pineda blast

From page A1

gas police to look into.

Allegations by text

No one was hurt in yesterday's explosion, which occurred at around 4:15 a.m. and tore three plate-sized holes in the metal gate of the Pinedas' residence.

Text messages received by Rafanan had claimed that yesterday's bombing could be a retaliation. against Pineda, whom the text senders alleged was linked to the June 1 bomb attack in Batangas, which destroyed Sanchez's vehicle and killed two of his aides.

"He is not that kind of person," Board Member Lilia Pineda said in a phone interview, referring to her husband.

Low-type bomb

The Pineda compound at Barangay Concepcion in Lubao is along the San Fernando-Gapan-Olongapo Road. It is ringed by a 20-foot concrete fence and a metal gate of the same height.

Senior Supt. Leonardo Espina, Pampanga police director, described the explosive as of "low-level type."

Ordnance experts in Camp Olivas have gathered samples of the bomb residues to determine what type of explosive was used. Results of crime laboratory tests are expected to be known next week.

'Like a bursting tire'

No grenade pin was found at the site, Espina said.

He said investigators had no leads yet as to the identity or identities of those who threw the explosive. The camera installed at the compound's entrance was not working, he said.

The guard, Mario Suba, went out to check after hearing what sounded to him like a bursting tire.

Citing the 100-meter distance between the house and the guardhouse, Mrs. Pineda said the members of her family "could not possibly be the target but the guard."

She was referring to Suba, who recently had a quarrel with some drinking buddies.

Espina himself downplayed the angle of a "jueteng" turf war as motive.

No jueteng in Pampanga

"That's very low, if not the lowest, (among) the angles that we're looking into because there's absolutely zero jueteng in Pampanga," he said.

Espina also said he was "not taking hook, line and sinker" unverified reports that a group supposedly called "Kawal at Taumbayan" had owned up to the bombing.

The group had claimed responsibility, saying the bombing was to punish the Pineda clan for giving financial support to President Macapagal-Arroyo's election campaign, GMA television reported.

"The bankrolling of (Ms Arroyo's) campaign by Pineda is one of the reasons why the Filipino people are suffering," the group said in a statement read by the television network.

Espina also dismissed suggestions of an alleged link between the bombing and the plunder trial of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

Two theories

He pointed out that Pineda was not among the witnesses that had been called to testify in the Estrada trial.

Like Rafanan, Espina reduced the likely motives to two theories: the campaign against illegal drugs being waged by the Pinedas' son, Lubao Mayor Dennis Pineda, and a quarrel involving Suba.

DENR's partners' lounge turns into room …

From page A1

could hold meetings, hang out and or simply "be at peace with the agency."

However, noted environmentalists walked out in the middle of the inauguration, expressing dissent over the revitalization of mining which was included in the DENR's 12-point agenda, but was not mentioned in the Kabalikat sa Kalikasan covenant.

The covenant signing was part of the program of the lounge opening.

Speaking before 100 representatives of environmental, religious and indigenous people's groups, Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes said he built the Kabalikat lounge to symbolize that the DENR would rather work with, than against nongovernment organizations engaged in environmental protection.

"Space in government offices is critical, but we need a room for our partners. You can come anytime, sit around, bring reference materials, hold meetings, even sing here," Reyes, a known crooner, told the environmentalists, whom he called "the real heroes."

"Gone are the days when NGOs should be banging on the gates. We are now open," he said.

The 50-sq m lounge, located on the same floor as the environment secretary's chamber, is fully air-conditioned, has seats and an Internet-ready desktop computer.

Causes that unite

Reyes, who vowed to be the champion of environmentalists during his oath-taking in February, said it was time for the government and NGOs to identify "causes that will unite instead of issues that will divide."

It took only one line, however, to break the momentary peace and spark dissensión among the Kabalikat members. This was Point No. 6 in the DENR's 12-point agenda which stated: "Revitalize responsible mining through the development of 24 medium and large-scale mining projects; generate $1.8 billion in investments over the next five years."

Nina Galang, dean of the Miriam College's Environmental Science Institute and director of Miriam-PEACE Foundation, raised an objection after Reyes' speech.

She said the DENR had agreed not to include the mining agenda in the DENR's 12-point agenda.

She explained that the agency had faxed her office a copy of the Kabalikat sa Kalikasan covenant—which was supposed to be signed by NGOs and the DENR that day—and mining was nowhere in the copy.

A poster of the DENR's 12-point agenda stood outside the lounge while the Kabalikat sa Kalikasan covenant was posted on a 2 meter x 2 meter poster in the lounge.

"I thought we had agreed not to include mining in the agenda. Why is it there now? Are we *magkabalikat* (in agreement)? It seems like we're still at odds," Galang said.

"I wish we could be *kabalikat*, but it's hard when we're coming from conflicting paradigms. I'm sorry but we can't sign this [covenant]," she said to the obvious shock of Reyes and DENR officials.

NGOs who refused to sign the covenant and walked out in a huff were: Haribon, Miriam PEACE and Bantay Kalikasan.

There were NGOs who gladly signed the covenant and they included: Clean and Green, Lakbay Isla and Balikatan.

Others like the members of the Zero Waste Recycling Movement of the Philippines were divided so some members signed, while others walked out.

It's national policy

"There was no intent to deceive. We're not scheming. As DENR, we're committed to certain national policies like mining; we cannot go against the national policy," Reyes explained.

He said they would have more discussions in the future.

The DENR has the dual task of preserving the environment and promoting mining as the economic propeller of the Arroyo administration, prompting militant environmentalists to call the agency "schizophrenic."

SC error led to execution of Leo Echegaray

From page A1

tently opposed the death penalty, said however, that the court was bent on correcting the "erroneous execution" of Echegaray as shown by its "stringent review of death cases" where it "modified" 64.61 percent of sentences to life imprisonment or "other lower penalties."

"That percentage translates to a total of 651 out of 907 appellants saved from lethal injection," he said in a recent speech during the launching of the Free Legal Assistance Group's publication "Legal Reference on Capital Cases."

This was not the case with Echegaray, who was the first of seven to die by lethal injection in 1999, after the court affirmed his death sentence following the passage of the death penalty law.

In June 1996, all 15 Supreme Court justices, including Panganiban, affirmed the Quezon City Regional Trial Court's decision to mete out the death sentence to Echegaray.

In January 1999, a motion for a temporary restraining order was filed and was turned down by the justices. Panganiban in a separate opinion had written: "I maintain my view that RA 7659 (the Death Penalty Law) is unconstitutional insofar as some parts thereof prescribing the capital penalty to comply with the requirements of 'heinousness' and 'compelling reasons' prescribed by the Constitution … This I have repeatedly stated in my Dissenting Opinions in various death cases decided by the Court."

"… Consequently, I cannot now vote to lift the TRO because to do so would mean the upholding and enforcement of a law (or the relevant portions thereof) which, I submit with all due respect, is unconstitutional."

Imperfect humans

In a recent speech before the Free Legal Assistance Group, Panganiban reiterated his stand: "I maintain the view that the death penalty has no place in our legal firmament. Indeed, in spite of the meticulous scrutiny that the Supreme Court gives to death cases, it is still possible that an innocent person would be held legally guilty and thereafter judicially executed," he said.

"As humans are imperfect, judges can make wrongful evaluations. A perfectly innocent individual could die due to human error, not to mention the guile and deceit that could accompany trials. Once carried out, the death sentence can no longer be reversed or modified. This opinion is not a mere sterile speculation. It is real," he said, citing the Echegaray case.

Surreal outcome

"Echegaray's penalty should have been reduced to reclusion perpetua. In People of the Philippines v Gallo, the Court belatedly reduced the penalty to reclusion perpetua, even though the decision meting out death had already become final," he lamented.

"But the case of Echegaray is different. He is in the Great Beyond, and a correction of the judicial error can no longer resurrect him. I believe that the surreal outcome of this case reinforces the strongest reason why the death penalty has no place in our statute books," he said. "After the execution of the appellant, errors in its imposition become nightmarishly irreversible."

Since the reimposition of the death penalty in 1993, only seven convicts have been executed by lethal injection. Since former President Joseph Estrada's declaration of an 11-month moratorium on executions, in deference to the Catholic Church's jubilee Year in 2000, no convict was put to death for the rest of the year.

Review with care

Panganiban said this no-execution policy was continued by President Macapagal-Arroyo who had asked Congress to immediately pass a legislation repealing the Death Penalty Law.

Recently, the Senate and House of Representatives passed the measure seeking the abolition of RA 7659 from the country's statute books.

Panganiban said that although majority of the 15 justices of the high court held the view that RA 7659 was constitutional, they nonetheless reviewed death cases "with painstaking care," resulting in the downgrading of the sentences of 651 death convicts from "either a remand for further proceedings, or a reduction of the sentence to reclusion perpetua (life imprisonment) or other lower penalties."

He said in only 230 of the 907 cases reviewed was the death sentence affirmed, while upon automatic review, the court acquitted 65 of those sentenced to death.

He said the court was also adopting many more "error-free" measures to ensure that the innocent would not be sent to the death chamber.

IN THE KNOW

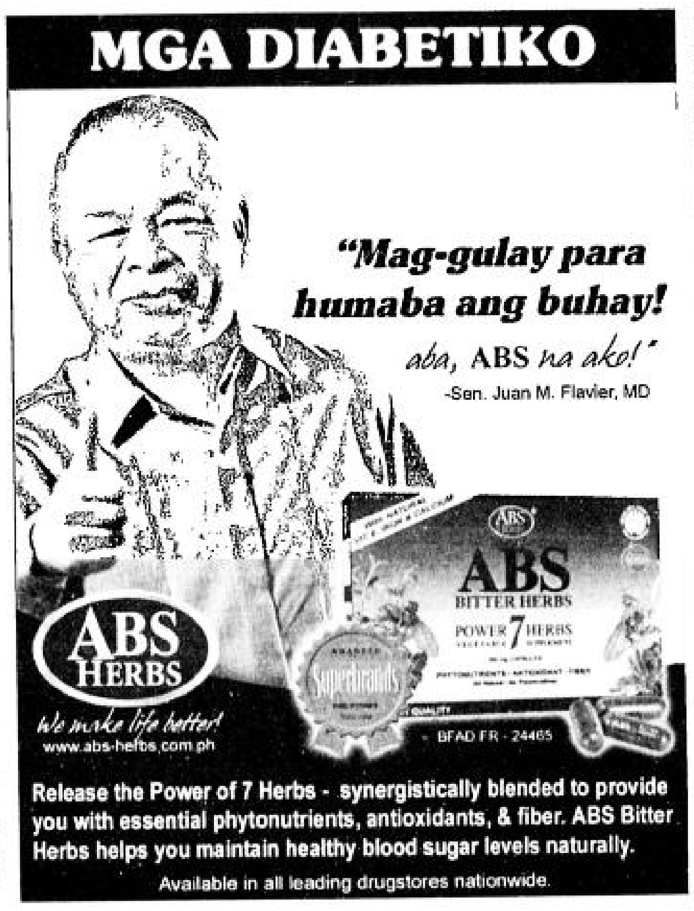
LEO ECHEGARAY, WHO DIED BY LETHAL injection on Feb. 5, 1999, was the first convict to be executed after the approval of Republic Act No. 7659 or the death penalty law in December 1993.

Echegaray was accused of raping his 10-year-old daughter (or stepdaughter, as his relatives claimed in court) Baby (not her real name), several times in their Quezon City home in April 1994. Baby filed a case against Echegaray in July. The Quezon City Regional Trial Court, then under the late Judge Maximo Asuncion, meted out the death sentence in September.

In June 1996, the Supreme Court affirmed the QC RTC's decision on Echegaray.

All 15 Supreme Court justices, including current Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban, concurred with this decision.

Kate Pedroso, PDI Research



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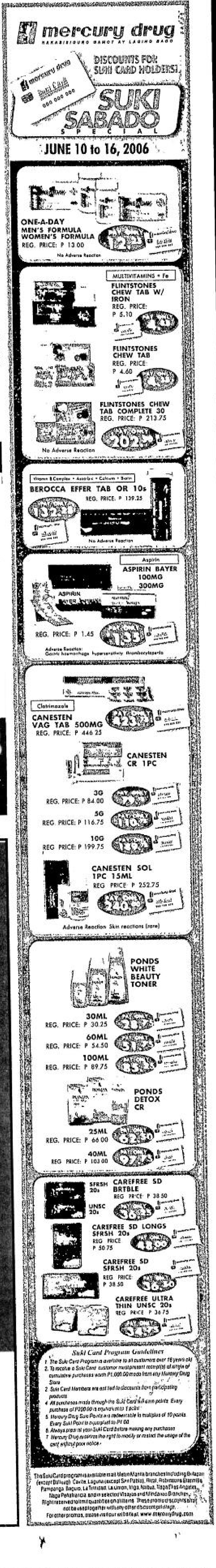

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Farewell, death

EDITORIAL

NOW THAT CAPITAL PUNISHMENT HAS BEEN abolished, there are plans to consign the electric chair and the lethal injection chamber to the museum, where they rightly belong. As many sectors—the Church and the media among them—have been arguing, in a country that has achieved a modicum of civilization and enlightenment, there's no place for cruel and inhumane punishments like the death penalty, which exists merely as a relic of a past that was less kind, less human.

But we must remember that this is the second time the nation has abolished capital punishment. It first got rid of the death penalty in the 1987 Constitution, which was drafted and ratified amid the euphoria of the Edsa revolution, with its toasting of human freedoms and a more tolerant order. Six years later, the penalty was reimposed, amid widespread concerns over a rising crime wave. The pendulum by then had swung the other way: from liberality and enlightenment to discipline, control, and even vengefulness. Our leaders may have abolished the death penalty for now, but it is not farfetched to expect their singing a far different tune soon, should the crime situation remain problematic. The kidnapping of businessmen, particularly those of Chinese ancestry, remains an underworld trade. Petty thefts have resulted in homicide, especially since crime syndicates have found an easy prey on a population that flaunts the latest mobile phones. Drug trafficking and addiction continue to bedevil society. And specter of terrorism refuses to go away.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has long found the death penalty repugnant and insisted on its abolition because it violates her Roman Catholic sensibilities. But even the Church, whose latest catechism practically finds no modern justification for the death penalty, has a tradition of teaching which leaves open the possibility of applying the punishment as a matter of self-defense. It is important that situations or elements that leave open such a possibility must be addressed firmly. There should be no more excuses for the return of the death penalty.

In order to finally close the chapter on the death penalty, it is important that the public take to heart the essence of a human society. A human society finds its truest foundation in life. It behooves therefore the members of society to uphold life and work for its full flowering. In such a context, even criminals must be given the benefit of the doubt. The penal system must allow them to make up for their sins while they are reestablishing themselves as healthy and responsible members of society. In short, justice must be rehabilitative, not punitive.

Those who argue for the death penalty do so because their vision of penalty is punitive; it harks back to the Old Testament's "eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth" philosophy, which we must remember has been superseded by the New Testament's vision of charity and humanity. That justification is outside of the purview of the Church's only rationale for the death penalty—as self-defense.

Perhaps, the only justification that dovetails with the Church's self-defense philosophy is capital punishment as a deterrent to future crimes. Thus, there are calls, for example, of giving the death punishments to military rebels to deter putsches in the future and ensure the government's capacity to defend itself against such possibilities in the future.

But even Nobel economists such as Gary Becker insist that it is certainty of punishment, not the severity of the penalty, that deters crime. That it is the effectiveness of law enforcement and justice administration, not the magnitude of punishment, that instills the fear of God in would-be criminals. And judging from the several coup attempts against the Republic, it appears that the reason officers and soldiers have been emboldened to launch coup after coup has been the kid gloves leaders of putsches have been historically treated with.

In 1986, the abolition of the death penalty was prefigured by nature: lightning struck down the electric chamber, reducing it to ashes, making the mandate of heaven quite unmistakable. No such preternatural event preceded the abolition of the death penalty for the second time, and it is hoped, the nation won't need another one should the death penalty be revived. Let us pray we have put the death penalty behind us, if only because we seek a freer embrace of life and society and the responsibilities they demand.

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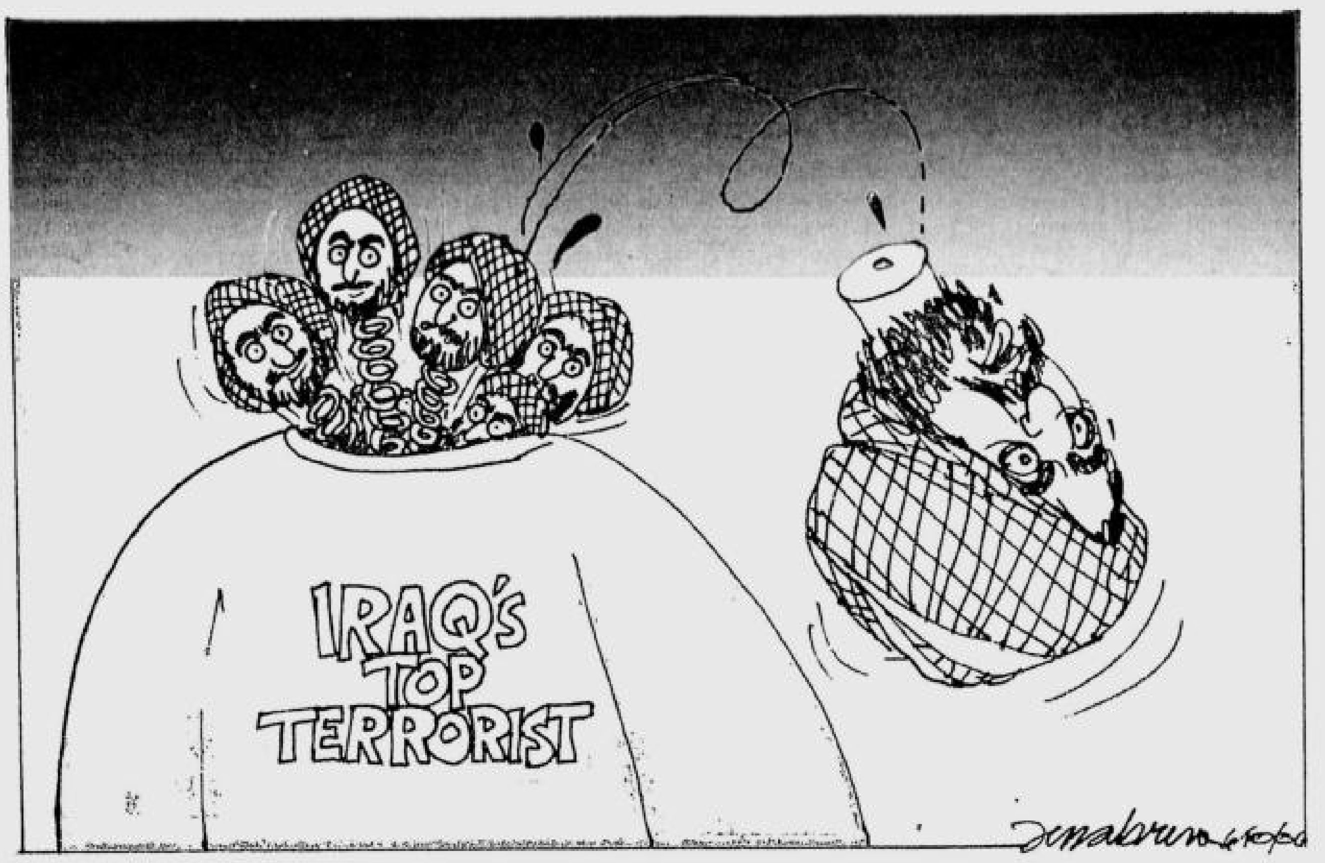

A discarded language

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

WHEN ENGLISH WAS THE MEDIUM OF INstruction in all our public and private schools, it was understood even in the remotest barrios of our country. It served as an effective communication tool and a unifier of our people with their separate customs and dialects in the different regions of the archipelago.

It became the lingua franca that distinguished us as the Asians most knowledgeable in the use of the language that was mostly gibberish to other Orientals. All they could do was admire us for speaking like the foreigners from America and England, not knowing that we were mostly ungrammatical and pronounced the strange words atrociously. That's why it was called "Carabao English" by even us Filipinos ourselves.

Only a small minority of our people used English at that time, the rest of the natives relying only on their local idioms and a smattering of Spanish from the old regime in dealing with each other. The few select were the earning who were sent by the government to pursue further studies in the United States and, later, the students from the University of the Philippines, the University of Santo Tomas, the Silliman University from the South, and other reputable schools. A group of writers led by Jose Garcia Villa developed a noteworthy body of Philippine literature in English that received the admiration and encouragement of their colleagues in America.

In time, even ordinary graduates from our elementary and secondary schools acquired proficiency in the use of English. The promotion of universal education contributed much to the popularity of the language. Soon Spanish, which remained the language of the intellectuals until the late 1930s, began to decline except only among the polo-playing elite in their exclusive enclaves.

With English prescribed by the American administration as the official language, it was soon widely used in government announcements and resolutions. The Official Gazette was printed, and still is, in English. Our present Constitution is in English although there are seldom-read copies in Filipino. Manuel L. Quezon is said to have bested his former superior, Sergio Osmeña, by learning English faster than the latter.

The new language began to spread even in the everyday life of the Filipinos. Street signs in Spanish were rewritten in English; "se vende" became "for sale," and "se prohibe fijar carteles" translated to "post no bill." Names were modernized and anglicized, and Pedro became Pete and Caridad was now Cherry. People no longer prayed Ave Maria but Hail Mary with the same devotion but a new accent.

Then things changed. Inspired by a new wave of nationalism, the now Filipinized government replaced English with the national language as the medium of instruction in all public elementary and secondary schools. English, which used to be compulsory in all school curricula, was reduced to only a supplemental and elective subject like French and Nippongo.

Shakespeare and Ernest Hemingway became strangers to the general studentry. The *balarila* and *panitikan* became the substitute courses. Soon enough, as our official should have known, the Philippines lost its ascendancy as the country in Asia most knowledgeable in the use, and misuse,' of the English language.

It was incomprehensible to many that while other Asian countries realized the need to teach their people the importance of learning English, we in the Philippines have de-emphasized it. We are no longer the best-informed people in our continent about English usage and grammar, much less its beautiful literature.

What we have now is the pidgin vocabulary we call Taglish, which is used by everybody including not only the teen-age colegialas, but also the serious-minded scholars and the semiliterate jeepney drivers. That's because it is "*talagang* cool *na* cool" at "*nakaka* satisfy." We should accept and cherish it like an adopted child with as much legitimacy as the languages from which it has developed.

My only remaining wonderment is the use of English in the credits of Filipino movies since that industry began in the early 1900s. The setting is in the boondocks, the characters are simple ignorant natives, the script is in the local dialect, but the credits continue to be in English for the useless information of the unschooled audience. The conclusion is always The End.

It's like the impoverished washerwoman in the old "Anak Dalita" picture who was played by a young and sexy mestiza slaving over a *batya*. Rosa Rosal, who starred in that film, should have instead been driving a modern convertible to a fashion salon in the city, "but *na* miscast *siya*."

English has grown to be the most preferred language in the world and is understood in the wilds of Africa as in the high councils of the United Nations. The Pope uses it as do the Emperor of Japan and President Fidel Castro in Cuba. Most importantly, popular movies including those with foreign settings are in English or with convenient English subtitles. It's simply amazing that we are renouncing it like a discarded lover while the rest of the world is embracing it.

Is BIR's collection target achievable?

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

THERE WAS A NEWS REPORT A FEW WEEKS ago that Fitch, the international credit rating agency, wasn't revising upward its assessment of the Philippines. Apparently, there was doubt about the government's ability to improve its fiscal performance. The Fitch representative was quoted as saying that the Philippines had the second lowest "tax effort ratio" among some 98 countries that Fitch monitors.

Just to give the reader a feel for the magnitudes involved: the unweighted average tax-to-GDP ratio—also known as the tax effort ratio—for the 30-nation OECD (industrialized countries) for 2003 was 36.1 percent. Sweden has the highest ratio (50.7 in 2004), Mexico the lowest (18.5), with Korea the second lowest (24.6) and the United States the third lowest (25.4). Closer to home, both geographically and developmentally, Malaysia's tax effort ratio (2003 data) was 17.6 percent, Thailand's was 16.7 percent, and Vietnam's, 16.4 percent. The Philippines' tax effort ratio last year (2005) was 12.7 percent.

So what? Put it this way: our GDP last year at current prices was about P5.3 trillion. One percent of that is P53 billion. Which means that if the Philippines' tax effort ratio last year were only the same as Vietnam's, we would have collected about P196 billion more in taxes. Enough to practically wipe out the national government deficit, or if you wish, enough to build the badly needed schoolrooms and a lot of other infrastructure. This should explain why the tax effort ratios of countries are so closely monitored, and why the Philippines' low ratio is a concern.

A most unlikely source appears to be validating the Fitch perspective: BIR Commissioner Jose Buñag. He has stated categorically that the Bureau of Internal Revenue will not be able to achieve its targeted collection this year. The target of P675 billion—26 percent higher than last year's—is too high, he complains, prompting his administrative superior, Finance Secretary Gary Teves, to publicly disagree with him on the feasibility of the target.

But too late the phalarope. As a result of Buñag's gratuitous declaration, JP Morgan, a leading investment banking firm, reportedly downgraded Philippine bonds from "overweight" to "neutral," which means it no longer recommends buying these bonds. Who are they, after all, to gainsay the BIR commissioner, whose agency accounts for roughly 80 percent of tax collections? A tax revenue shortfall—given that everything else remain the same—will mean that the government's deficit targets will not be met.

The negative reaction to Buñag's statement may be a small price to pay in exchange for the greater transparency in government that it seems to indicate? But by far the more important issue is whether or not there is a firm basis for saying that the BIR collection target, like so many of the government's targets, is a gross overestimate.

How was that target arrived at? If memory serves me right (and memory does—it is my short-term, not my long-term, memory that is going), the target is set by the Department of Finance in consultation with its agencies, taking into account such factors as the projected nominal GDP of the country, the tax buoyancy (the percentage change in tax collections for every percentage change in GDP), additional tax measures, and collection efficiency. These are then presented to the Development Budget Coordinating Committee of the National Economic and Development Authority for review and approval.

What would militate in favor of meeting that target? Aside from the additional revenues generated from GDP growth, incremental revenues are also expected from the following: the two-percentage-point increase in the EVAT; the increase in the corporate income tax rate; the normalizing of the production levels of sin products like beer, cigarettes (which took a dive last year supposedly because manufacturers had increased their production in the previous year to delay having to pay the additional taxes); and the inclusion of petroleum products among the "VAT-able" products, not to mention former BIR Commissioner Guillermo Parayno's legacy of computerization and systems improvement that has made evasion more difficult.

What are the negative forces? Some are out of BIR's control: the penchant of the Board of Investments to grant tax exemptions (the growth sectors, such as call centers and telecom firms are income tax exempt); the possible change in behavior of taxpayers when their tax rates increase (this is not taken into account).

On the other hand, some lie squarely on Buñag himself: for one, his public statement that the target is too high is a very strong structural message to his underlings that it is all right not to achieve whatever quotas are implied (Parayno met all his targets); for another, there is his apparent failure to keep up the computerization program started by his predecessors (Rene Bañez and Parayno), which was designed to close the loopholes in the tax net and make evasion more difficult; and, finally, there is his inexplicable action regarding the Large Taxpayers Unit: he reinstated as head of that unit the very same person who was shunted aside by Bañez (reportedly because of her "incompetence"). Neither did Parayno, Buñag's immediate predecessor, make any move to reinstate her. The Large Taxpayers Unit is very important: it accounts for over half of the revenues collected by the BIR.

Bottom line? From where I sit, the BIR collection target is achievable, if the stumbling blocks can be removed—the largest of which may be the BIR head himself.

Unwanted controversy

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

CONGRESS FAILED TO PASS THE 2006 BUDGET when it adjourned last Thursday evening. Which means that the government will have to operate on a reenacted budget—perhaps until August, soon after Congress reopens and gets another chance to act on it. President Macapagal-Arroyo has said that she would veto the budget if Congress failed to restore the P64 billion that the Senate had cut. But apparently GMA's allies in the House bicameral conference panel were not willing to let a veto. So they stuck to the hard line—all or nothing.

* * *

Some senators said that some items in the budget would be used by GMA to push Charter change. But what's lamentable, as Appropriations chair Joey Salceda noted, is that the cut-off allocations were for social development projects, meaning, the Senate cut is bound to affect the poverty alleviation program of the government. Could it be that the senators want this administration to fail?

Note that among the items snipped off was the "Kilos Asenso" project which was meant to fund local development projects in the countryside. Fears of "Kilos Asenso" funds being misused should have been allayed by the fact that beneficiary-local government units would have to raise counterpart funding, or they don't get "Kilos" funds. Hence, LGUs have to exercise a strong sense of responsibility here; and since they'll be handling partly their own funds, they're bound to be careful about the "Kilos" projects.

The local executives now know whom to punish in the coming 2007 senatorial elections. The mess about the budget provides more argument for the adoption of a unicameral legislature.

* * *

It's too bad that political motives were injected into the choice of the late movie idol Fernando Poe Jr. as one of the recipients of the National Artist Award in 2006. His widow Susan Roces, apparently acting on the advice of close supporters of her late husband, chose not to attend the awarding rites held yesterday at Malacañang. That was understandable given the political tension that had run between FPJ's camp and the President's since the 2004 campaign. What's sad was the rumor that even National Artist Eddie Romero, whom Ms Roces earlier reportedly designated to receive FPJ's award on her behalf, was barred by the Palace from doing so because he was not FPJ's next of kin. This forced NCCA Executive Director Cecile Alvarez to issue last June 8 a clarification in writing (lest the facts are again twisted), addressed to Boots Anson-Roa, a close FPJ associate. Cecile stressed that "no one in Malacañang had said that Romero could not accept the award if he was indeed authorized by the family, especially by Susan Roces." Cecile said that what it told the press was that "traditionally and historically according to protocol," the next of kin received the award for posthumous awardees. However, she said, "if the family indicates that it has so authorized a representative, we would not question that."

* * *

What's not appreciated in the controversy was that FPJ was selected by his peers, not by GMA; and nominated by two institutions, Famas and Mowelfund. This was unlike the case of Muslim sculptor, painter and writer Abdulmari Imao, who was included upon the suggestion of GMA prompted by intense appeals from many groups. Imao is the first Muslim given the title of national artist. In FPJ's case, two presentors argued for him before two separate screening bodies: Romero before a body of multi-disciplinary experts, and Roa before the joint boards of the Cultural Center and the NCCA. FPJ garnered the minimum sixteen votes required, unlike the late composer George Canseco and stage actress Naty Crame Rogers who failed to get the magic number.

* * *

Speaking of artists, one of the outstanding ones at the recently concluded Unesco-International Theater Institute World Congress here was Steve Seskin, a successful American folk singer and songwriter. He has seven songs to his name, including Grammy-nominated "Grown Men Don't Cry" and "Don't Laugh at Me," the winner of the Nashville Songwriters Association International "Song of the Year" and Music Row Magazine "Song of the Year" in 1999. At the opening of the Unesco Congress, Seskin sang "Don't Laugh at Me," accompanying himself on the guitar. That song, popularized by Peter, Paul and Mary, became an impetus for the "Operation Respect/Don't Laugh at Me" project, a curriculum designed to teach tolerance in schools. This program has already been implemented in more than 20,000 schools across the United States, and Seskin continues to perform at school assemblies in its support.

I thought that in our culture, where people often laugh at the infirmities and disabilities in their midst, especially among schoolchildren, it might be timely to reprint here the lyrics of Seskin's song, in anticipation of Disability Prevention Month this July:

I'm a little boy with glasses
The one they call a geek.
A little girl who never smiles
'Cause I've got braces on my teeth."
And I know how it feels
To cry myself to sleep,
I'm that kid on every playground
Who's always chosen last.
I'm the one who's slower
Than the others in my class.
You don't have to be a friend,
But is it too much to ask?
Chorus:
Don't laugh at me, don't call me names.
Don't get your pleasure from my pain.
In God's eyes, we're all the same,
Someday we'll all have perfect wings.
Don't laugh at me.
I'm the beggar on the corner.
You've passed me on the street
And I wouldn't be out there begging
If I had enough to eat.
Don't think I don't notice that our eyes never met.
I was born a little different,
I do my dreamin' from this chair.
I pretend it doesn't hurt me
When people point and stare.
There's a simple way of showing
Just how much you care.
Repeat chorus:
I'm fat, I'm thin
I'm short, I'm tall.
I'm deaf, I'm blind.
Hey, aren't we all?

Remembering the disappeared

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THE FIRST THING I DID WAS TO LOOK FOR HER name. I found it on page 123, part of Chapter 4 titled "Still Missing or Buried, But Always Remembered." And I do remember her, my cousin Tish.

There are only a few items by which to remember her in the book. Her name: Leticia Ladlad; the date on which she was last seen alive: Jan. 1, 1976; the place: Sta. Ana Church, Manila.

It is with some shock that I realize that I was already about to graduate from college when she disappeared. My last clear memory of her is at a family party, when she was already a college student at UP Los Baños, and I was, perhaps, in high school. "My, how they've grown!" she had exclaimed to my mother, indicating me and my sister Chona. My mother just smiled and looked worried, afraid perhaps that Tish would sit both of us down and indoctrinate us, for even at that time she was already an activist.

It was the last time I saw her. My uncles teased her as "our little farmer girl," for she had chosen to study agriculture at Los Baños, despite what everyone had deemed her "promising" future, given her academic credentials. I'm not sure if she even managed to graduate because, soon after, she transformed from a "little farmer girl" to a member of the underground. I would hear only fleeting stories of Tish in the years that followed, and then only stray facts gathered from whispered conversations. It was the height of martial law, after all, and ordinary Filipinos had been cowed into thinking that government spies were lurking everywhere.

When the family network exploded with news of Tish's disappearance, we heard about fevered efforts to trace her whereabouts—uncles and cousins activating their government and military contacts for word on whether she was still alive or, if dead, where she had been buried. To this day, no one knows for sure (I think) what happened to Tish or where her remains can be found. Still, she is remembered.

* * *

REMEMBERING those who disappeared in the years immediately before and even long after martial law is the reason for the preparation of the book "Beyond Disappearance: Chronicles of Courage." It is published (with funding from the Finnish Embassy) by FIND or the Families of Victims of Involuntary Disappearance, an NGO composed of relatives of *desaparecidos* (disappeared people), a term that came into popular international use in the 1970s when military regimes were the norm in Latin America and state enemies were routinely kidnapped by military groups, detained and tortured and never heard from again.

While "the incidence of involuntary disappearance as a form of human rights violation reached its peak during the martial law regime," FIND secretary-general Raquel Paca-Santos writes, even with the lifting of martial law and after the Edsa "People Power" revolt, "the level of grave human rights violations throughout the country remained high." Paca-Santos states that "disappearances became an intrinsic part" of the government's anti-insurgency campaign.

My husband, never a particularly politically-inclined individual, thumbed through the list of *desaparecidos* where I found Tish's name and exclaimed: "*Ang dami naman!*" The list, based on FIND data, begins in 1971 and ends in 2005, though today's headlines tell us that disappearances, if not outright killings of leftists, continue even as you read this.

* * *

BUT the real value of "Beyond Disappearance" lies not in lists or numbers, but in stories of individuals and families, tributes written by family members or friends as "a tribute to those who have offered their lives in the service of the underprivileged and dispossessed," Rep. Edcel Lagman, honorary chair of FIND, writes in his foreword.

The "first documented *desaparecido*" was not an armed rebel commander but a bespectacled university instructor, Charlie del Rosario, whose disappearance in 1971 was a harbinger of tougher and harsher measures to come.

In an account written by a younger sister, Estelita, Charlie is mainly remembered as an instructor at the Philippine College of Commerce (now the Polytechnic University of the Philippines), where he filled his lectures on political science with talks on nationalism, social reform and civil liberties. His sister paints him as a "silent worker and an organization man." He was last seen putting up posters at the PCC compound in Lepanto and has been missing for 35 years.

* * *

HERMON Lagman, younger brother of the congressman and older brother of Popoy, at the time a top honcho of the Communist Party and who was himself gunned to death a few years ago, emerges as a far more complex character in the account written by his sister, Nilda Cecilia Sevilla.

Though it is believed that the military authorities were really after Popoy and picked up Hermon when they found him resting at his parents' home, Hermon was himself a committed human and labor rights activist. He turned his back on wealth and fame and chose instead to devote himself to labor lawyering, earning the ire of corporations and even a stint in detention. "Unlike many student leaders whose activism is left on the campus when they graduate, Mon sustained his catalytic role beyond the university. He remained active in the mass movement and became more deeply nationalistic when he started to practice law," writes his sister.

Edcel Lagman writes that he hopes the anthology will end in a bright note with the passage of a bill that will criminalize enforced disappearance as a special offense "distinct from murder, kidnapping, physical injuries and rape." All good citizens and defenders of human rights should fervently share in that hope, especially in these days of dread.

Naturalized killers

WORLD VIEW

Tzvetan Todorov

THE ARREST OF 17 PEOPLE IN CANADA ON terrorist charges underscores, across the West, a growing sense of dread and inevitability that is rooted in the homegrown nature of the threat. But what do we really know about these killers among us?

We know, of course, the broad outline of their all-encompassing fundamentalism, and we have some vague ideas about al-Qaida as a decentralized network of cells, spread across many countries, that seeks to acquire chemical, biological and, perhaps even nuclear weapons. We also know their leaders' long-term goals: seize power in Muslim countries and attack the Western states that support secular regimes in the Islamic world. Finally, we also know that the leaders of this fanatical tide are few, but they now have the sympathy of millions of ordinary Muslims.

There have always been fanatical individuals ready to die and kill in the name of their beliefs. But they seem far more dangerous nowadays as a result of technological advances that have "democratized" bomb-making. After all, as the London and Madrid bombings demonstrated, a cell phone is all that is needed to time an explosion—or a series of explosions—with deadly efficiency.

Our freedoms and social fluidity also contribute to the threat. People move about the globe cheaply and with relative ease. Immigrants can establish themselves in new societies, and in democratic states they can live completely free of supervision. Our freedoms are their tools.

So how do we fight such an amorphous enemy?

President George W. Bush has demonstrated one way not to do it: his invasion and occupation of Iraq show that directly attacking Muslim states only fuels fanaticism. Of course, civilized countries should not give up the fight against extremist Islam because of the bloodshed in Iraq; but we must recognize that war, occupation, and forced submission to military power have merely caused mass humiliation and resentment among many ordinary Muslims—emotions that are then channeled into terrorist networks. Prime Minister Tony Blair can loudly proclaim that the London bombings of July last year were unrelated to Britain's participation in the Iraq war, but the terrorists themselves, once arrested, said exactly the opposite.

Indeed, here is how one of the Madrid bombers described the psychological preparation to which he submitted himself: his leader "made us watch DVDs showing pictures of war in Iraq, mostly pictures of women and children killed by American and British soldiers." There is also no shortage of images of abused prisoners at the Abu Ghraib prison or the prison camp at Guantanamo Bay. These abuses have done more to recruit new adherents to Islamic fanaticism than any sermon in a radical mosque.

Simply put, bombs dropped from several thousand meters do not kill less indiscriminately than explosive charges placed in train cars. Acknowledging this is not to excuse terrorism, but it is a first step toward understanding terrorism's underlying causes, and thus toward its eradication.

Above all, it is to acknowledge that democratic societies must use both political and police tactics in confronting fanatical terrorists. Politics is necessary for the simple reason that occupying armies and police cannot force hundreds of millions of Muslims to shed their hostility.

Political action implies actually leaving Iraq quickly and finding a fair solution to the Palestinian conflict, which in turn requires ending the occupation of all Palestinian territories. Of course, extinguishing these hot spots will not erode the fanaticism of diehard and suicidal activists; neither will it rid us of the avidity and hatred that is so evident among the leaders of Islamic rage. But it will deprive them of the masses of sympathetic Muslims who view the fanatics as the only people seeking to defend "Islamic" values and the oppressed Muslim peoples.

Policing is the second part of any effective strategy. Greater efforts at infiltrating terror networks are needed, as is a deeper knowledge of the social structures created by the terrorists, in order to block their financial support. This may mean eliminating shadowy "tax havens," tapping phone lines, and identifying individuals considered highly dangerous. Police actions must be merciless, even if this means more controls and surveillance. It is precisely to prevent the development of a collective security fear that we need to alter the equilibrium between security and freedom.

While the European Union lags behind the United States in terms of conventional weapons, its capacity to fight terrorism is probably higher. For historical reasons, Europe benefits from a political maturity that has allowed it to avoid Bush's Manichean worldview which has merely reinforced, rather than undermined, the enemy's fanaticism. Moreover, for geographical reasons, Europe also benefits from a better knowledge of Arab and Muslim countries and extensive familiarity with their populations.

The West can and must prevail in this fight and in the defense of the values that it cherishes. It might even find, along the way, a new and urgently needed motivation to reinforce its fraying unity.

Tzvetan Todorov, director of Research at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) in Paris, is the author of "Hope and Memory."

Migration patterns of the wildebeest

YOUNG BLOOD

Kenneth Raymond Diaz

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

THE "RESIGNATION SEASON" HAS RETURNED TO OUR company. Five of my fellow software engineers have resigned, four of them planning to go abroad. A high turnover rate seems to be a natural characteristic of the IT industry.

It's so unlike the old days when employees tend to stick to only one or two companies in their entire lives. When they retire, they would typically have already spent 10 to 20 years of their lives working for one and the same company.

For software developers these days, they say that the longest you should stay in a company should be two years, after which you should move on. This practice makes for a pretty enriching experience, as it exposes you to different areas where you can apply your expertise, and expand your very horizons in the process. I myself stayed only three months in my first job, before moving to my current one.

The previous "resignation season" struck about the same time a year ago. But none of those who resigned left the country. Some went to work for IT firms in Manila, while the others stayed here in Cebu to work for other companies. It's sad to lose officemates to other companies, but it's sadder to lose them to other countries.

This is not to judge or condemn fellow employees who decide to work abroad. I myself might be following in their footsteps someday. But is there really no more hope for this country that the middle class and the professionals are all wanting to get the hell out of here? It's not like they're really desperate members of society, who have no other option but to work abroad because they can't find a job here, otherwise they and their families will starve. These are professional software developers who I think have pretty decent salaries. They most certainly won't starve with their salaries. Yes, they may be a bit hard put to pay, say, the mortgage for that house or car while maintaining a comfortable lifestyle, but I think the country really needs them at this point.

Imagine this. If all the doctors were to leave the country, who would attend to the sick? If all the nurses left, who would be there to care for the patients? If all the teachers left, who would teach our children? If all the software engineers and programmers left, who would build and maintain the computer systems which have become critical to the efficient operations of business and government and, for that matter, to our country's development? If all the software engineers and programmers left, what would be the point of foreign firms investing and outsourcing their IT needs here; and how are we supposed to move and reach the heights we all want our nation to conquer?

This is not to mention the social costs of going abroad—the families that are going to miss the firm hand and caring love of the fathers and mothers who are not around.

One of my officemates who's going abroad is himself a father. I'm pretty sure he has thought long and hard about his decision, for it means leaving behind a daughter who is entering the age of adolescence. It must have been a painful decision for him, a decision that I certainly wouldn't want to be forced into in the coming years when I myself have a family of my own.

But this is not to say that all who are going abroad are leaving purely for the allure of money. They may be going there for personal reasons I may never know and understand. Maybe, they just want a new life abroad, away from the pains, problems and heartaches that come with their stay here. Maybe, they just want to see new places and learn new things.

All those who resigned are older than me. So, maybe, they have more experiences in life that give them more reasons to leave. And to think that some of our very own national heroes—like Jose Rizal, Marcelo del Pilar and the Luna brothers—went abroad with the thought and goal of making the motherland a better place.

But I also understand that it is very hard to work on a concept for a country that doesn't seem to work for you. Here we all are doing our duties as citizens of this country by following the law and paying our taxes correctly, and what do we get in return? A corrupt system that doesn't even work for us but only for those who are in power; *trapos* (traditional politicians) who don't respect the most sacred right of a people in a democracy, their right to vote; and a President so desperate to hold on to power just because she believes she is the only viable leader for our country, in the process insulting all her countrymen with the insinuation that they are a messy mass of barbarians unable to govern themselves.

But if we think about all this, isn't this a bigger reason for us to stay? So that we can help out to fix the system? So that we can fight the entrenched power that for so long has imposed itself on our society? So that we can help make the Philippines more attractive to foreign investment by simply staying here and giving the best we have to offer in our jobs?

Or do we just leave the rebuilding of our nation to others, and only return once things are back on the right track?

These questions remind me of the great migration of the wildebeest in the plains of the Serengeti in Africa. The wildebeest are constantly on the move, seeking places where the grass is greener and more abundant. But once they are done with a pasture, they leave it bare to regenerate on its own.

Are we destined to be like the wildebeest? Are we destined to become nomads, a people without a land we can call home? Will the Philippines, with this kind of mindset, still exist a decade or two from now?

There is one major difference between heroes and wildebeest. Even though heroes leave their country, they come back armed with the wisdom and experience gained from their journeys abroad. Back home, they try to fix or improve their country's state of affairs.

But who am I really to say all this? Who am I to dictate the direction other Filipinos choose to take for themselves? Who am I to demand heroism from them? Maybe, I am just being young and foolish. Maybe, a few more years from now, I will learn that idealism is overrated, that idealists don't survive in a dog-eat-dog world such as ours. Maybe, a few more years from now, I myself might become more practical in my thinking and decide to leave as well. But right now, I sure hope to God I won't eat my words. And I also hope that you guys come back.

Kenneth Raymond Diaz, 23, is a software developer for Bigfoot Global Solutions in Cebu City.

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Give Dale Abenojar benefit of doubt

INSTEAD OF REBUKING DALE ABENOJAR (putting in question his claim that he reached the summit of Mt. Everest), Leo Oracion and Pastour Emata should have given him the benefit of the doubt.

Do these two guys think they have a monopoly of the indomitable spirit that pushed them to conquer Mt. Everest? They should have kept quiet and let Abenojar prove his claim. Or, are they afraid to lose the distinction of being the first two Filipinos to have reached the peak of Mt. Everest?

I have always been an avid fan of Mt. Everest climbers and I have followed their expeditions in the Internet's Everest News. If indeed Abenojar's climb to the top was successful, then he deserves greater admiration for having taken the more difficult and risk-laden North route quietly, without fanfare and publicity; at least, he can lay claim to be the first Filipino to have climbed Mt. Everest via the death-defying North route which most climbers fear.

—CESAR M. DE LOS REYES,
cesdlrey@globelines.com.ph

A call to vigilance

ETERNAL VIGILANCE IS THE PRICE OF freedom. This is not only true in war but in all situations and to all people, the coconut farmers included. They should not sit on their laurels for having won the case on their ownership of the coco levy funds before the Supreme Court and the Sandiganbayan.

The high court declared on Dec. 14, 2001: "To avoid misunderstanding and confusion, the Court will even be more categorical and positive than its earlier pronouncements; the coco levy funds are not only affected with public interest, they are in fact prima facie public funds."

The Sandiganbayan, denying the motion for reconsideration filed by Cojuangco et al., ruled: "It is high time that the real beneficiaries of the coconut levy fund, the coconut farmers who contributed to it, and the entire coconut industry be given the chance to reap the benefits that are due them."

All this affirms that the coconut levy funds, in their entirety, belong to the coconut farmers, hence not a single cent of it should be subject to compromise.

Unfortunately, not all of the funds have been recovered by the government. Twenty percent of the San Miguel shares remain the subject of litigation between Cojuangco and the coconut farmers through the PCGG. What the former wants is a compromise that would allow him to keep the 20 percent for himself and his allies. This is what the farmers should be wary about, lest the amount, roughly P10 billion, slip from their hands and go to the pockets of looters.

Ironically, a group, led by PCGG Chair Camilo Sabio and Davao Archbishop Fernando Capalla, is strongly endorsing the compromise. We find it strange and suspicious that the PCGG chair himself is now the very person bargaining for a compromise with the respondents. This is clearly highly immoral. Sabio deserves to be booted out from the PCGG. And what can we say of Archbishop Capalla? A high-ranking cleric belonging to a pro-poor Church?

Looters are not in a position to compromise. The remnants of the Marcos regime caused poor coconut farmers—who could barely eke out a living due to the usually depressed prices of copra—untold sufferings. For this reason, I call upon all coconut farmers to oppose resolutely Sabio and Archbishop Capalla's proposed compromise. An NGO—Multisectoral Task Force on the Full Recovery of the Coconut Levy Funds (MSTF) is now distributing forms for concerned farmers to sign, if only to show their opposition to the planned compromise agreement. I also call upon Ms Arroyo to see to it that the PCGG will perform what it is commissioned to do: recover the ill-gotten wealth of Marcos and his cronies.

Fellow coconut farmers, your signatures will certainly send a strong signal to the Sandiganbayan that the oppressed poor will no longer tolerate their being further duped and cheated by the economic saboteurs of a discredited era.

—BASILIO CALARPE,
Maasin City, Southen Leyte

Kudos to media defending press freedom

THE CONVICTION AND BRAVERY OF the young freedom fighter introduced to us as "Erika" have touched many lives, not only of her fellow Filipino youth but also of many mothers, who like Molly, are losing their children to become the "children of the times." ("Girl leaves mother to be 'child of our times,'" PDI, 5/14/06)

I would like to commend the INQUIRER for bringing out such stories that never fail to inspire and arouse their readers into action. Despite the threats and the brickbats from government officials like Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, the INQUIRER continues to feature stories on the political killings and has chosen to remain on the side of the people and the truth. This praise goes out as well to other media workers who are never cowed by those who are out to suppress the freedom of the press.

In the face of the rampant killings of journalists and militants, may the defenders of truth in the press and in peoples' organizations struggle on. As for the youth, the inspiring story of Erika ought to serve as an inspiration for them to carry on with the struggle for justice, freedom and genuine peace for which Erika and many others like her have died for. Then their lives shall not have been sacrificed in vain.

—MAY VARGAS,
mayrvargas@yahoo.com

ONE of SM malls in Metro Manila.

SM's pro-family decision

IN HER MAY 23 COLUMN, BELINDA OLIVARES-Cunanan pointed out how logical is the SM policy of not showing "The Da Vinci Code" in SM theaters. (PDI, 5/23/06)

Indeed, having the Blessed Sacrament in SM is not compatible with the showing of the film. The refusal not to show the film in SM theaters may not be good business sense but it is the right decision.

That decision has prompted me and my family to continue patronizing SM, and I will encourage all my friends to do the same. We will support SM all the way! It shows SM is not only concerned with profits but is thinking of the good of the family. This is a good start because a good family makes a better and prosperous society.

We are on the right track with SM leading the way. Heroic and admirable. This is clearly how a man should live his faith in this profit-oriented society.

—MISHIEL D. DULLA,
296 Old Evertex Rd., Barangay Tulo,
Calamba City, Laguna 4027

Bulatao victim of perverted presidency

I AM GRATEFUL THAT COLUMNIST Ceres P. Doyo wrote about the injustice done to Sally Bulatao (PDI, 5/11/06), who quietly, most honestly, most perseveringly and most effectively headed the National Dairy Authority for over four years.

Malacañang's dismissal of Bulatao for corruption was a travesty of justice. But the loss is the government's, not Bulatao's. She has proven that she has the competence, social commitment, integrity and network to help NDA perform at a level that could earn the respect of the farmers it is intended to serve. Bulatao is one precious, if rare, gem. To dismiss her on corruption charges only shows how incredibly perverted the Office of the President has become under Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Bulatao remains a servant of the people, and no one—least of all, a fake president—can take that reputation away from her.

—MARIA TERESA DIOKNO-PASCUAL,
Institute for Popular Democracy,
45 Matimtiman St.,
Teachers' Village, Quezon City

The Baguio of our memories

READING THE CROSS-COUNTRY STORY, titled "6,000 km cross-country in 22 days on a motorbike," of Hans Peder Pedersen (PDI, 5/16/06) reminded me that the Baguio City I once loved is gone forever. Pedersen said that Baguio in its present state is "a sad story of a dethroned beauty queen of the mountains turned whore." Indeed, everywhere you look in Baguio today, you wouldn't see any more trees. They have been replaced by rooftops, shanties, stonewalls and junks.

In the late '70s, when I was in high school, I and my classmates used to walk from our school to the downtown area. We could feel the cold breeze and we would encounter more horses than cars. It was like you were in the countryside of North America.

Whatever happened to the once breathtaking view of the most beautiful mountain city in the Philippines? I won't be surprised if one day, our government will change the country's summer capital. That is, if we still can find a place that has not been touched by illegal loggers who call themselves "developers."

Can we not preserve the trees like rich nations do? In Auburndale, Florida, for example, a big chain store wanted to build an outlet on a lot where a 120-year-old oak tree stood. Rather than cutting it down, the store-owner transplanted it. It took the store six weeks and $100,000 to effect the transplant. (National Geographic, April 2006).

Maybe, this is easier told than done. But there are other ways to save trees and maintain clean air. If we don't start preserving mother nature now, when? And if not us, who?

—ABET B. BALLOGUING,
San Fernando City, La Union,
mbballoguing@hotmail.com

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Sayaw.
Drama.
Iba.
Shall We Dance?
The Celebrity Dance Challenge
Sunday 9 PM
hosted by Lucy Torres Gomez
ABC
Iba Tayo!

ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5	Kid's TV	KNN	Anime Ring Kaisho		PBA					Wow Maling Mali		Ripley's Believe It Or Not		Mutya Ng Pilipinas Coronation Night					
ABS-CBN 2	ETK				Little Big Star		Komiks		Let's Go	Quizon Avenue		TV Patrol World	XXX		Kapamilya Deal Or No Deal	Sabado Movie Greats			
AXN		Red Water				WRC 2006 Greece		30 Seconds To Fame	E Buzz	Ripley's Believe It Or Not		Max Exposure (Season 1)		Lost (Season II)		Numb3rs (Season 2)		Supernatural (Season 1)	
Cartoon Network	Powerpuff Girls	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	Tom & Jerry Show	Pet Alien/Planet Sketch/Camp Lazlo/Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy		Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy/Cow & Chicken/Pet Alien/Camp Lazlo		The Simpsons		Barbie Diaries			The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy (8:45 PM)	The Simpsons		Power Rangers Dino Thunder	Gundam Seed		Aqua Teen Hunger Force/Sealab 2021
Cinema One	Sabel				So Happy Together				D' Anothers				Visconde Massacre				Portrait Of The Artist As Filipino		
Cinemax		Night Falls On Manhattan				Nowhere To Run (5:10 PM)			Firefox (6:45 PM)					Blind Date (Movie)			7 Seconds (10:35PM)		
CNN		World News		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	World News		World News	World Sport	World News				Talk Asia	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart
Crime/Suspense		Mastermind	Forensic Files	Bones		North Mission Road	Body Of Evidence	Crossing Jordan		Law & Order		Bones		Prison Break					
Discovery Channel		Bang Chen Kang		Unsolved History		Power Zone				Hour Asia		The FBI Files		Crime Stories		World's Strangest UFO Stories		American Chopper	
Disney Channel	Lizzie McGuire	Totally Spies Double Episodes		Brandy & Mr. Whiskers	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery	Buzz on Maggie	Phil Of The Future	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Mr. Bean	America's Funniest Home Video	Kim Possible	Martin Mystery	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ETC		Joan Of Arcadia 2		Friends 10	Will & Grace 4	Veronica Mars 2		The O.C.3		Beach Girls		Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		Saturday Night Live		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Trading Spouses		Today Show - 1 Hour Version		Dateline		Showdog Moms & Dads		NBC Nightly News	Hollywood One On One	Blowout 2		Inside the Actor's Studio		ER		NBC Nightly News	WSJR
EWTN	Visionaries, Mystics & Stigmatists	Chaplet Of Mercy/ Angelus	Image Of God	Adventures In Odyssey	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Knights Of St. Michael	Catholic Compass		Life Is Worth Living	The World Over Encore		Daily Mass Live		Holy Land Rosary/ Angelus	The Word Was Made Flesh	Voices On Virtue	Backstage	Life on The Rock Encore	
Fox News		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Special Report With Brit Hume		Fox & Friends Saturday						Bulls & Bears	Cavuto On Business	Forbes On Fox	Cashin' In
GMA 7	Startalk				Wish Ko Lang (4:20 PM)		Fantasikids (5:20 PM)		Pinoy Pop Superstar		Bitoy's Funniest Videos (7:20 PM)		Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho				Hokus Pokus (10:20PM)		Showbiz Stripped
Hallmark Channel		McLeod's Daughters V		In Love And War (4:25 PM)			Out Of Time (5:40 PM)				Back To You And Me (7:20 PM)			Frederick Forsyth's Icon					
HBO			The Bourne Supremacy				Footloose			White Chicks (7:15 PM)				XXX: The Next Level			Outbreak (10:40PM)		
Hero TV	Mon Colle Knights	Shaider	Mask Rider Ryuki	Gransazers	Shaman King	Bucky the Incredible	Jester The Adventurer	Musumet	The X-Treme Team	Love Hina	Fruits Basket	Lost Universe	Hero TV Weekly	Babel II	II OVA	Captain Kuppa	Mon Colle Knights	Shaider	Mask Rider Ryuki
IBC 13		Home Shopping Network		Nations' Peacekeeper	Auto Review	Home Shopping Network		Pangarap Kong Jackpot		Global Family Series		Japan Video Topics: Anime		Bitag		Pilipinas Sabong Sports			
JackTV	X-Men	JLU	The Batman	Cheat	Filter	Bottomline		Raw				Distraction	Banzai	Last Comic Standing		South Park	South Park	Drawn Together	Crank Yankers
Lifestyle Network	Living Space	HGTV Special		Sheila Bridges Designer Living	Radical Sabbatical	Simply Wine Andrea Immer	Food Fight	Dole Plate	Emeril Live		Iron Chef America		Merge		Style Star	How Do I Look		E! Extra Women Of Vegas	
MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Bandarito	MYX News	MYX Presents		Take 5	Radio MYX	Top Of The Pops	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Live!		Pinoy MYX Countdown				MYX Backtrax	MYXILOG
National Geographic		The Living Edens: Denali Alaska's Great Wilderness		Zheng Zhi Classic Asian Beauty		Planet Football World Cup Cities #9	Planet Football World Cup Cities #10	Animals Like Us		Built for the Kill Cold Blooded		The Living Edens [illegible]		Planet Football World Cup Cities #11	Planet Football World Cup Cities #12	Wild Rio		No Borders Bombay Calling	
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		Teledyaryo Sports Asia		Kamao		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Youth Voice-Debate		POEA Dialogue [illegible]		Isang Hour On NBN		A.S.K.		Krusada Kontra Krimen	
Nickelodeon	Drake & Josh	Zoey 101	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	The Fairly Odd Parents Kids Pick - New Show	Catscratch	Avatar Legend Of Aang	Danny Phantom	Trollz	SpongeBob SquarePants	All That Just For Kicks - New Show	Zoey 101	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	Dark Oracle	Girls In Love	The Amanda Show	The Brothers Garcia	The Fairly Odd Parents	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Regine Live At Araneta				Ang Pagano				Zacarias				Kalangan ko'y ikaw				Paloma
Qtv		Twelve Kingdoms		Karaoke Star		Candie		Fans Kita		Astro Robot		Day-Off		Sabado Showdown				Groupee TV	
RPN 9		Globe Window		Biyaheng Langit	Global Window	Man & Machine				Blind Justice		CSI Miami		Saturday Night Playhouse					
SBN 21								Sony Music Video		Sony Music Video		Oras Ng Himala		Oras 'ng Kababaihan		Shepherd's Voice		SBN Music Video	
Solar Sports						Basketball: New York Liberty vs Houston Comets				Boxing: Z The Dream Games				Superfights: Fernando Trejo vs Jo Antonio Araujo				2006 Hitachi Asian Women's Club	
Sports Plus		The Memorial Tournament Highlights		FIFA World Cup '06 Opening Ceremony			Quest for the Cup 8th leg	French Open '06 Day 13 Highlights		World Poker Tour 2				French Open '06 [illegible]					
Star Movies	Picture Perfect (2:45 PM)				Walking Tall (2004) (4:25 PM)			3 Ninjas Knuckle Up (6:30 PM)		The Tailor Of Panama				Die Another Day				Agent Cody Banks 2: Destination London	
Star World		Third Watch/ Love Asia		Miami Vice		Wild Card		Less Than Perfect	The Drew Carey Show	Ghana 2006 Fifa World Cup		TNA Xplosion		World's Most Amazing Videos		Enterprise		The Simpsons	
Studio 23								Sports TV	Survivor Panama Exile Island	Pinoy Big Brother		The Hitcher (8:10 PM)			Studio 23 Presents				

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DREAM BOATS BING GONZALES/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU
Two boys put their paper boats into an open canal in Toril District in Davao City, taking advantage of a lull in school work to play.

Church leads war on STL in Negros

By Carla P. Gomez and Felipe V. Celino
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—THE DIOCESE of Bacolod is launching a campaign against the entry of Small Town Lottery (STL) in the towns and cities of Negros Occidental, Bacolod Bishop Vicente Navarra said yesterday.

Navarra revealed the plan of the Church after Manapla Mayor Manuel Escalante, Negros Association of Chief Executives president, Tuesday said that majority of the 32 mayors in Negros Occidental will allow STL into their towns and cities and are set to pass a resolution next week stating their stand.

Only five mayors—Alfonso Gamboa of EB Magalona, Pedro Zayco of Kabankalan City, Carminia Bascon of Himamaylan City, Janet Torres of Bago City and Ricardo Presbitero of Valladolid—are opposing the entry of STL in their areas.

Navarra said he admired the five mayors for the stand they have taken and hoped they serve as examples to other mayors.

He said the mayors who favored STL should weigh the monetary advantages over the moral disadvantages that the state-run game will create by bringing gambling to the towns and cities of Negros Occidental.

"STL will distort the values of the people who, instead of relying on work, will pin their hopes on gambling," Navarra added.

In Roxas City, the Christian Family Movement in Capiz also strongly opposed the entry of STL.

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NOTICE TO INTERESTED PARTIES

The **GSIS,** thru its **ACQUIRED ASSETS EVALUATION COMMITTEE (AAEC),** shall be accepting offers for the following properties:

1. **Former GSIS Makati Office**
   Location: Legazpi St., Legazpi Village, Makati City
   TCT Nos. S – 19518, S – 19519, S – 19520
   Land Area: 2,429sqm.
   Improvements: 7 storey bldg. w/ roof deck
   Proposal Type: Long Term Lease

2. **GSIS Quezon City Property**
   Location: Eliptical Road, Quezon City
   TCT Nos. N-187226, N-187227
   Land Area: 29, 844 Sqm.
   Proposal Type: Long Term Lease

Interested parties may submit their proposals to the Disposition of Acquired Assets Department, 5th floor, Core C, GSIS Headquarters, Financial Center, Pasay City on or before July 14, 2006.

All proposals shall be evaluated by the AAEC and shall be subject to the final approval of the President and General Manager and/or BOARD OF TRUSTEES. GSIS reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals.

(Sgd) RENATO R. SANTICO
Senior Vice President
Housing and Real Property Development Group

ROUNDUP

2 NPA rebels slain

DAVAO CITY—Two New Peoples Army (NPA) rebels were killed and several others were wounded during an encounter with government troops in Talaingod, Davao del Norte yesterday morning, the military said. Maj. Jose Cuerpo, military spokesperson for Southern Mindanao, said two other rebels were captured. The soldiers, he said, also recovered several firearms. Cuerpo said government troops were patrolling a remote village in Talaingod when they chanced upon an undetermined number of NPA rebels around 9 a.m.

Dennis Jay Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Earthquake drill

COTABATO CITY—The Office of the Civil Defense (OCD) will hold an earthquake drill in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) next week. OCD director Lita Enok said the drill will train residents on disaster preparedness. Several ARMM areas have experienced deadly quakes in the past including the 1976 tremor that killed hundreds of people in Central and Western Mindanao. Regional disaster coordinating committee chair ARMM Gov. Zaldy Ampatuan also directed public works regional secretary Rasul Abpi to check school buildings and other government infrastructure to make sure these could withstand strong quakes.

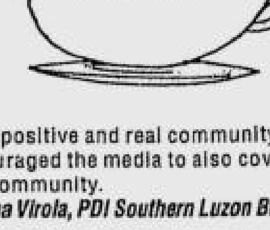
Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Principal shot dead

MAPANDAN, Pangasinan—An elementary school principal was shot dead by two motorcycle-riding men on Wednesday while she was on her way home to Golden Village here, police said. Tessie Lalas Morante, 57, principal of Golden Elementary School, and another teacher had just attended an aerobics class in another village school when the attack happened. Police said the suspects shot Morante from behind, hitting her twice in the chest. She died before reaching the Mapandan Community Hospital. Morante's companion was unhurt.

Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Community coffee talks



CITY OF CALAPAN—Oriental Mindoro Bishop Warlito Cajandig offered media a good material for coverage, that is, the expansion of the monthly Provincial Care Council forums at the municipal, barangay and neighborhood levels. It is a venue for people to raise issues, which would be referred to concerned agencies, he said. The forums will also provide materials for positive and real community stories, said the bishop, as he encouraged the media to also cover people who are doing good for the community.

Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Gang kills 2 youngsters

LUCENA CITY—Two persons, including a third year nursing student, were gunned down by a teenage gang in Barangay Ibabang Dupay here past midnight Thursday. A police report identified the victims as Roberto Lat, 20, and Joel Padilla, 21, a nursing student, both residents of Purok Riverside in the village. Lat suffered a single gunshot wound in the head while Padilla was fatally hit in the left side of the body. Both were declared dead on arrival in a hospital. Two of the suspects identified as Michael Pornobi and Mark Rait were arrested by police after a brief chase. Two other suspects identified as Jessie Morales and one alias "Berto" escapes and are now being hunted.

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Benguet town gets tough on chemical firms

BUGUIAS, BENGUET—COME AND GET BACK your containers.

This message for chemical companies comes from officials of the town, the province's vegetable capital, who had decided to rid their farms and rivers of unwanted empty chemical containers.

The town council recently passed an ordinance that required chemical companies to retrieve their emptied containers or face fines and imprisonment.

The measure, which was approved on June 6, is considered as the first in Benguet as the town is doubling its time to comply with the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 (Republic Act No. 9003).

The law required all local government units to complete this year their own solid waste management programs such as waste segregation, materials recovery facilities, controlled dumps and sanitary landfills.

Councilors Ireneo Calwag and Vicente Kitongan, authors of the ordinance, said the measure was approved following findings that the spillage from emptied chemical containers had become a major source of contamination of the town's rivers, including potable water sources.

They said the emptied containers appeared harmless after their contents had been used.

"But these containers can still spill toxic chemicals that will be harmful to the environment particularly when they are just thrown around," they said.

"The town's population of more than 40,000, mostly farmers, had become a profitable market for these chemicals," Delfin Vicente, town council secretary, said.

Market

Farmers here buy pesticides, insecticides, fungicides and "weedicides," which come in the form of bottles, boxes, plastics, bags and other packages, for their farms.

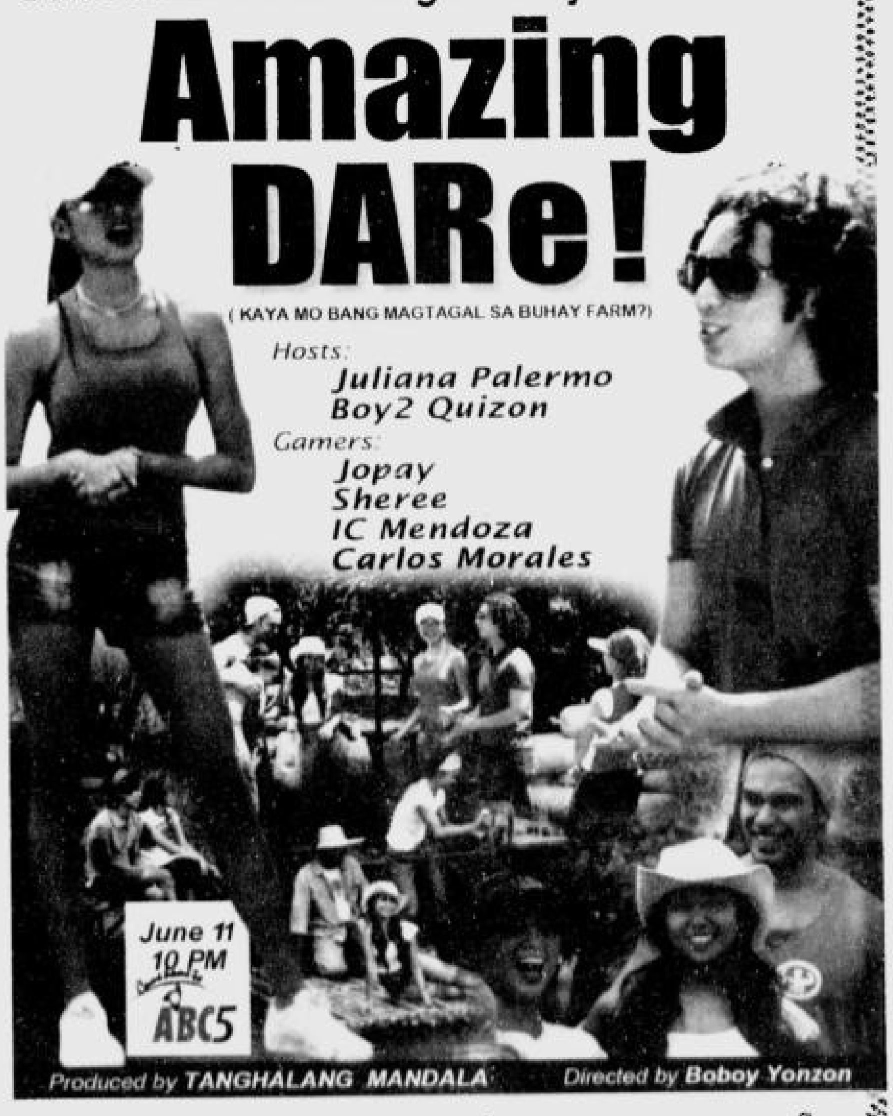
Vicente told the INQUIRER that the council was prompted to pass the ordinance after a study conducted by St. Louis University in Baguio City and Benguet State University in La Trinidad town revealed alarming findings.

The study, completed under the Philippine inter-university cooperation program, confirmed the containers as potent sources of water and river pollution in the town.

Last year, BSU soil experts also alerted town officials on the growing acidity of the town's vegetable farms due to excessive application of chemical spray on growing crops.

"The chemicals used had drastically reduced the farms' fertility," Dr. Carlito Laurean, BSU's director of research, said.

The ordinance asked to retrieve the containers from areas designated by the barangays as collection centers. Failure to do so would make the chemical company liable for fines or imprisonment or both. *Delmar Cariño, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



TV SPECIAL
Panoorin! Kakaibang Reality Game Show!
Amazing DARe!
(KAYA MO BANG MAGTAGAL SA BUHAY FARM?)
Hosts:
Juliana Palermo
Boy2 Quizon
Gamers:
Jopay
Sheree
IC Mendoza
Carlos Morales
June 11
10 PM
ABC5
Produced by TANGHALANG MANDALA Directed by Boboy Yonzon

MILF ancestral domain claim gets complicated

PAGADIAN CITY—AT LEAST 26 Subanen *datus* oppose the inclusion of the Zamboanga peninsula and some parts of Misamis Occidental in the proposed Bangsamoro entity.

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), claiming the region is part of its ancestral domain, wants its inclusion in the entity under a peace settlement with the government.

On Thursday, the Subanen leaders rejected the proposed inclusion of their areas into the Bangsamoro ancestral domain during a tribal meeting here.

The Subanen leaders said their territories were never part of the Moro ancestral domain.

Timuay Fernando Mudai, head of the Pigsalabukan Bansa Subanon (Confederacy of Subanen Peoples), said Apo Idsak made a pact with Shariff Kabungsuan, a Moro chieftain, over the delineation of territories of Subanen and the Moro in Mindanao.

Mudai said that Kabungsuan and Idsak entered into a pact that led to the division of Mindanao into four territories. Moro territories fell under the sultanates of Maguindanao and Sulu. The rest, he said, were placed under the control of the *lumad*.

But the Subanen leaders quickly said they were not opposed to the establishment of a future entity for the Moro people.

Timuay Argeo Magalso, a Subanen leader from Zamboanga Sibugay, said the MILF should respect the ancestral domain claims of other groups.

"We all need to respect each other," said Alongcaya Abdurahman Abdullah, a leader of the Kobogolalan nog Kalibugan sog Sirawai (Sirawai Kalibugan Council of Elders in Zamboanga del Norte).

"The government must take into consideration all issues including the ancestral domain claims of other groups if they want genuine peace," he said.

Abdullah, a Kalibugan who embraced Islam, said the government must be careful in granting the MILF its claim of ancestral domain.

"They (government negotiators) should assess every claim of the MILF before they enter into a peace deal because it might lead to another problem. They should not create another problem if they want to end a problem," he said.

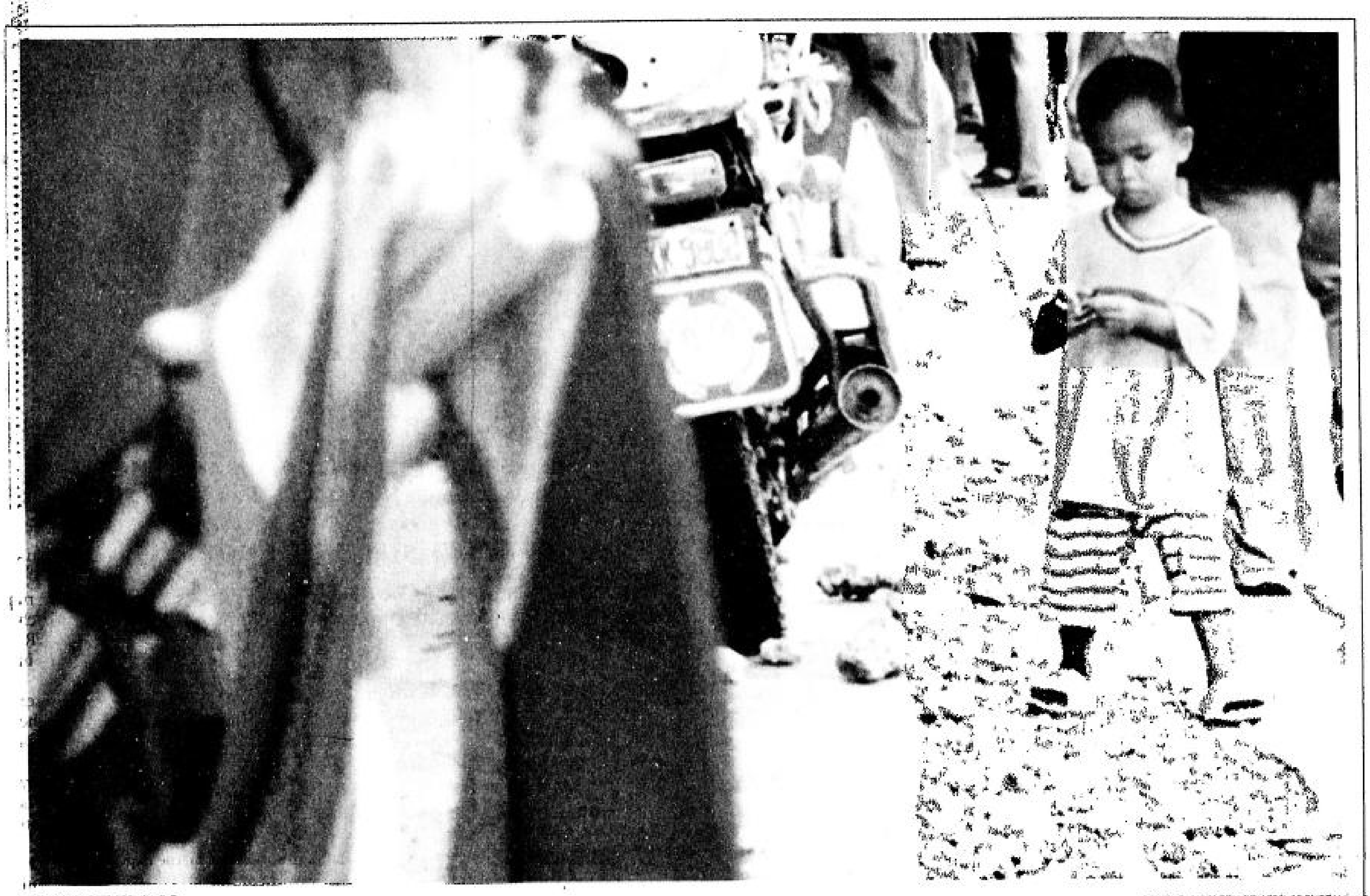
The Subanen leaders also said they would establish contacts with the MILF peace panel to address any potential problem arising from the rebel group's ancestral domain claim.

"We will request a dialogue with them and discuss with them our position on ancestral domain claim. Hopefully, a communication linkage with them will open a positive outcome (sic)," Mudai said.

Ancestral domain remains to be the most difficult issue in the peace talks between the government and the MILF.

Government negotiators expressed optimism a deal would be signed by September, but rebel leaders said they were cautious about signing a deal this year because the year ends in the number 6.

Previous agreements with other Moro groups that were entered into during years that ended in the number 6 were failures, said the rebel leaders. *Michael Sarcauga, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



ARNOLD ALMACEN/PDI VISAYAS BUREAU

DAY OF FLAGS

A boy walks on busy Calle Real Street in Iloilo City where replicas of the Philippine flag are being sold. The sale of the flags has not picked up despite the coming celebration of Independence Day on June 12. The government has resorted to requiring offices to display Philippine flags to stir interest in the symbol of Philippine independence.

Pampanga asks firm to pay taxes for hauling sand

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—THE Pampanga government has given a Japanese company until Friday to show proof why it should not be made to pay taxes for the sand it is using as filling material for portions of the P21-billion Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX) in the province.

The Kajima Corp. would be compelled to show a copy of the contract stipulating it was entitled to tax exemptions, provincial administrator Fidel Arcenas told legislators investigating alleged anomalies in quarry tax collections.

At the resumption of the hearings on Tuesday, Arcenas said Kajima also faced a cease and desist order if it fails to furnish the provincial government a copy of the contract.

The firm was first issued a "notice of failure to pay extraction fees" on May 25, he said.

The Pampanga government is questioning the use of sand obtained during "cut and fill" processes in Floridablanca and Porac towns. The mineral is gathered when earth-moving equipment cut through hills or fields along the project's right of way. The supply is then piled to form the new road.

"[Kajima] said it merely transferred the materials. We said they actually [used] the materials for the road and so they must pay," Arcenas told the House of Representatives' committee on good government chaired by Iloilo Rep. Arthur Defensor.

Arcenas said he and a Kajima representative, during a meeting last week, have not yet determined the amount of taxes due the provincial government.

The company worked on a 31-km segment of the expressway's first phase. The remaining 19 km in this phase on the Bataan side is being done by Obayashi Corp. The road, funded on a loan from the Japanese government, covers a total length of 97 km.

Like other principal contractors, Kajima buys its filling stock from local haulers who pay for the sand taxes.

Overall, the project was estimated to spend a total of P2.3 billion on filling materials alone, a copy of a SCTEX's bill of quantities furnished by Vice Gov. Joseller Guiao showed.

Pampanga charges a tax of P300 per truckload of high-grade sand and P100 for low grade sand, Arcenas said.

The project's need for at least 5.1 million cubic meters of sand (equivalent to 283,554 truckloads) could earn for Pampanga at least P85 million, Guiao said. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Search for greener pastures emptying schools in Cordillera

BAGUIO CITY—EDUCATION OFFICIALS here said the migration of families looking for better economic opportunities outside the Cordillera is a major factor in a decline in enrollment figures in public elementary and high schools in the region.

Benito Tumamao, Department of Education director in the Cordillera, said discussions during a recent conference attended by teachers in the region showed that migration has dented enrollment figures as many families have chosen to relocate and leave the region.

Records of the DepEd-Cordillera showed that enrollment in public elementary schools in the region dropped to 214,521 in 2005 from 218,763 in 2002. The number further dropped to 209,520 for school year 2005-2006.

Tumamao said some parents and teachers have cited poverty as a major factor their children are leaving school. Some teachers also noted that some children leave school as they are forced to work to augment their families' income while some children are abused and maltreated and lose interest in attending school.

Although public elementary and high school education are free, Tumamao said the dropout rate in the elementary level in the Cordillera is 7 percent. The dropout rate in public high schools in the region is 12 to 13 percent, he said.

Parents and students, during a recent forum sponsored by the National Union of Students of the Philippines, said the high cost of education has forced students to make a living instead of going to school.

Norma Mooy, a farmer and a mother of eight, said she could not send all her children to school because she could not afford to buy her children school supplies.

Mooy, a resident of Itogon, Benguet, said she even asked one of her children to stop pursuing college this year because they do not have money.

"We may have our own land to till but the income is not enough to send my children to school. We also have to think about the money [to buy] food. The cost of farming inputs eats too much of our budget, and whatever is left from the sale [of our harvest] would be allotted for food," she said.

TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

CHILDREN at a Baguio school queue for books, also a commodity hard to find in many public school classrooms in the country.

Tumamao said Cordillera has a "manageable" student population, with an average ratio of 55 students to a teacher.

He said the region also has an adequate supply of english, science and math textbooks for elementary students.

In Pangasinan, a free bag and some school supplies for all elementary and high school students in Binmaley town helped increase enrollment this school year, said Mayor Simplicio Rosario.

Rosario said the town government launched the project because many residents are poor that parents could not send their children to school.

"I want to lessen the illiteracy rate in my town. I hope all children will finish high school," he said.

The town has about 15,000 youth enrolled in public schools and each of them benefited from the project.

Rosario said he started helping public school students by paying for their test papers, which cost P10 every periodic examination. *Desiree Caluza and Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Baguio code drives women to come out against abuses

BAGUIO CITY—MORE WOMEN ARE COMING out in the open to report domestic violence following the implementation of the city's gender equality and development (GED) code, officials said.

In a meeting with Canadian Ambassador Peter Sutherland here last week, Jeterda Junio, city social welfare officer, said since the code implementation last year, more women, especially in the villages, have been open about their experiences on domestic violence.

"We noticed that many women in the barangays were passive before the passage of the code. Now a lot of women are coming out to say their feelings regarding their abuse," Junio said.

Monroe Taclawan, a retired teacher, said residents have become more aware of the rights of women and children.

This was confirmed by barangay officials and representatives of women's groups during a meeting with officials of the Canadian government that funded an advocacy campaign on the GED code, considered a landmark ordinance here.

In 2005, the city government recorded 339 cases of violence against women. The cases ranged from battery, sexual abuse to rape.

From January to April this year, the city government reported 99 cases of abuse and violence against women. Most of these cases happened to married women mostly belonging to low income families, Junio said. She said the reported cases were all brought to barangay councils.

Section 51 of the code stipulates that there should be immediate action on reports of violence against women and children.

It further requires all departments of the city government, including the barangay councils, to act within 24 hours on complaints or cases.

Junio said since the code implementation, more women in the barangays have been wanting to know about it. "Even the policemen were eager to know more about GED," she added.

Records showed that officials from 120 of 128 barangays here have been trained by the city social welfare development office to handle the cases. *Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

WHILE women's groups are pushing for a stop to abuses, a woman vendor goes about her daily routine at a grotto in Baguio City.

EV ESPIRITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

INQUIRER Visayas

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Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

Aklan prof produces seedless rambutan

By Hazel P. Villa
Banga, Aklan

IF THERE ARE SEEDLESS grapes, can seedless rambutan be far behind?

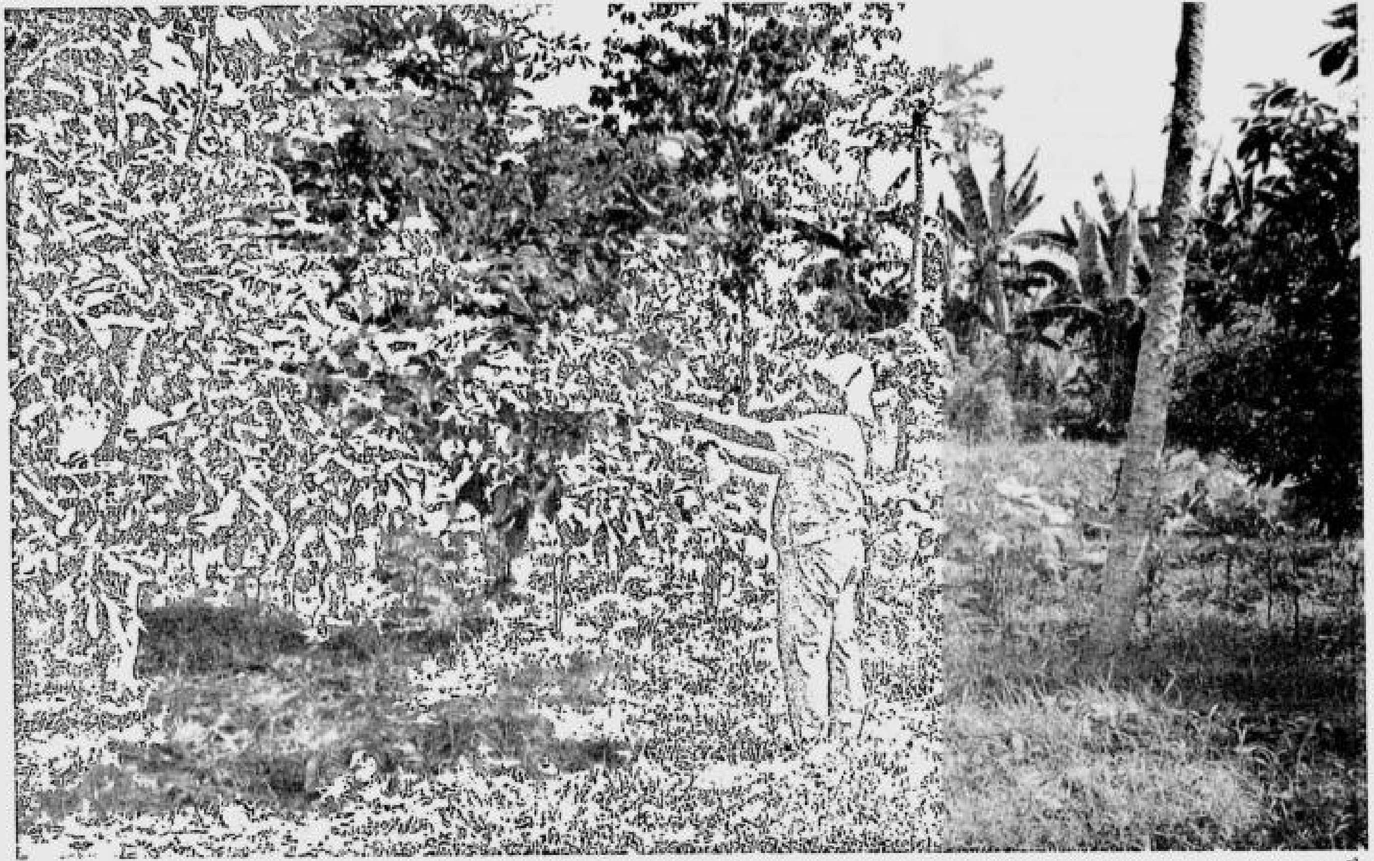
If Aklan State University (ASU) has its way, it would like to see its seedless rambutan gain the popularity of seedless grapes and put the South Asian fruit in the pantheon of best-loved fruits.

This, after one of ASU's professor-researchers, Dr. Marilyn Romaquin, "accidentally" came up with sweet, seedless rambutan in September 2003 while experimenting on the effect of Gibberelic Acid on the yield and quality of rambutan fruits at harvest for her doctoral dissertation.

Gibberelic Acid is a plant growth regulator that induces seedlessness in fruits like grapes and is often used for commercial fruit crop production.

Romaquin, 48, embarked on her research in November 2001 in the hope of helping rambutan fruit growers in Banga come up with higher yields since majority of their produce goes to Manila and Panay island during its season from July to September.

"I was facing a blank wall since I couldn't understand where the study was going. I was also wondering how to get data for developed seeds when there were no seeds to speak of, not realizing that I have come up with seedless rambutan," said Romaquin, who is married and with one daughter.



DR. MARILYN Romaquin, professor/researcher at the Aklan State University, sprays rambutan trees with Gibberelic Acid, a plant growth regulator that induces seedlessness in fruits.

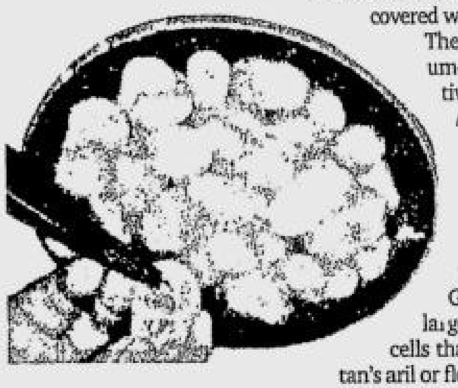
PHOTOS BY HAZEL VILLA

Eureka moment

With that eureka moment, Romaquin changed her original study of experimenting on the effect of Gibberelic Acid on the yield and quality of rambutan fruits into one where she could establish the proper concentration and time of application of the acid that could induce seedlessness and whether this would change the appearance and quality of the rambutan.

Romaquin's rambutan research was of particular importance to her because its success meant earning a doctorate degree in crop science, major in horticulture, from the Central Luzon State University in the Science City of Nueva Ecija.

By September 2003, Romaquin's research yielded much sweeter and seedless rambutan albeit with reduced length and rambutan fruit trees that bore more clusters of the oval fruit covered with fleshy pliable spines.



A BOWL of seedless rambutan propagated by Dr. Romaquin.

The evergreen medium-sized tropical tree native to the Malay Archipelago normally produces loose pendant clusters of 10-20 fruits together.

There were more fruits because, according to Romaquin, the Gibberelic Acid enlarged and elongated the cells that make up the rambutan's aril or fleshy part and the starch that was supposed to go to the seed went instead to the aril, making the fruit sweeter.

For her experiment, Romaquin used nine 8-year-old asexually propagated rambutan trees of the Maharlika variety that had "uniform vigor, height and canopy."

The Rambutan

THE TERM *rambutan* is derived from the Malay word "hair," which describes the numerous long, soft, red or red and green-colored spine-like protuberances (spin terns) on the surface of the peel. The pericarp of this attractive oval-shaped fruit can be red, orange, pink, or yellow in color and is removable by a twist of the hands. The edible, pearlish white, juicy, crispy, sweet and subacid flavored flesh (sarcotesta) conceals a single seed with a thin, fibrous seed coat (testa).

Cultivated primarily for its fresh fruit, but also canned in syrup, cooked for stewed fruit and jams, the colorful fruits are frequently used in displays with flower and fruit arrangements. The pericarp of rambutan contains tannin and saponin and is dried and used medicinally in Java. In Malaysia, the roots are used in a decoction for treating fever; the leaves for poulticing and the bark for an astringent for tongue diseases. Young shoots are used to produce a green color on silk that is first dyed yellow with turmeric. The fruit dye is one of the ingredients to dye silk a black color. The seeds are edible when roasted, they are bitter and said to be narcotic. A tallow similar to cacao butter, with a high level of arachidic acid, can be rendered from the seeds. The rambutan tallow is edible and can be used to make soap and candles. The reddish colored rambutan wood is fairly hard and heavy, and reputed to be resistant to insects but not to fungi. However, trees are usually too small to be valued as timber.

(SOURCE: WWW.HORT.PURDUE.EDU/NEWCROP/CROPFACT-SHEETS/RAMBUTAN.HTML
CONTRIBUTOR FRANCIS T. ZEE, USDA-ARS, NATIONAL CLONAL GERMPLASM REPOSITORY, HILO, HI.-CENTER FOR NEW CROPS AND PLANT PRODUCTS, PURDUE UNIVERSITY, WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA, USA

Three groups of the said rambutan trees were then applied with different concentrations of Gibberelic Acid at different times: Before bud break, before full bloom and when the fruit has set.

Romaquin explained that seedless fruits occur naturally in rambutan but this is rare, with an average of 4.46 percent of fruits being seedless. But upon application of a certain amount of Gibberelic Acid, the seedlessness significantly increased to 86.67 percent and could even be 100 percent seedless with the appropriate concentration of the acid.

Among other things, the effect of the Gibberelic Acid on the "new" rambutan fruit were the following: It became "significantly sweeter" compared to rambutan with seeds, reduced length but not in diameter and weight which remained comparable to the seeded fruit, and a "significant increase" in the number of fruits with a 5-year-old tree producing 100 kilos.

Research adviser

Romaquin said half the success of her rambutan experiment is attributed to her research adviser, Danilo T. Eligio of the Central Luzon State University, who prodded her to come up with a research that she would be proud of.

The dissertation placed second in.the regional level of the dissertation category during the 15th Regional Symposium on Research and Development Highlights sponsored by the Western Visayas Agriculture and Resources Research and Development Consortium (WESVARRDEC) on Aug. 24-25, 2005 after placing first in the ASU in-house review on Aug. 3-4, 2005.

Romaquin's work, encapsulated in poster form, was also adjudged Best Poster at the 13th National Fruit Symposium at Pampanga Agricultural College on Oct. 19-21, 2005.

Romaquin is wont to discuss how many parts per million (ppm) of Gibberelic Acid is necessary to induce seedlessness and when exactly it should be applied.

Though successful on the experimental level, she still needs to conduct a verification study to determine if the experiment could be used at the farmer's level.

What Aklan's rambutan growers have to say about Romaquin's seedless rambutan remains to be seen since in 2005, they were battling the glut of rambutan in the market that sent prices plummeting and fruits rotting, since there were no post-harvest facilities.

Dr. Elsa Abayon, director in charge of the ASU's Research and Development Services, says the university that helped gain fame for Aklan as rambutan country is also being blamed for the glut.

"We have put up the Business Center to deal with the rambutan's economy and production-related problems and we and the farmers are conceptualizing a "bagsakan" (drop) center," said Abayon.

The 103-hectare ASU plans to have the seedless rambutan go the way of the popular prunes but it looks like they have to wait for Romaquin's plans as she currently toys with the idea of making rambutan trees bear fruit even during off-season.

Shipwreck discovered off Roxas City waters

By Felipe V. Celino
Roxas City

WAS THE WRECK FOUND OFF THE COAST OF Barangay Barra, Roxas City, a Spanish galleon or a mere trading ship?

Roxas City officials and local folk were amazed after local divers discovered the sunken ship on May 22 off the waters of Sitio Tabai in Barra. Strong current from last typhoon "Caloy" was believed to have unearthed some portions of the sunken ship, which made it visible from the surface waters.

The ship was first thought to be a galleon or ancient trading vessel. Others believed it to be a Spanish warship.

Barra resident and well-known diver Ronilo Lorenzo, 45, was first to discover the ship buried about 15-20 feet deep and about 3 km from the shore of Barra. Lorenzo and 10 other divers were actually diving for seahorses when they accidentally spotted the sunken ship.

He told Roxas City Mayor Antonio del Rosario that the ship was made of hardwood and they saw broken jars, among other things. They also recovered gunpowder that had solidified as it sparked when rubbed with hard piece of stone or iron.

However, some enterprising divers and fishermen had salvaged parts of the vessel and sold it to junkshops for as high as P6,000, Lorenzo said.

A sizeable amount of artifacts taken by some fishers and divers from the ship have, however, been recovered by the city government and will remain in the keeping of the mayor.

City officials are awaiting the official announcement of the National Museum (NM) that conducted an exploration off the coast of Barangay Punta Barra last June 1.

Del Rosario instructed Capiz police director Senior Supt. Cipriano Querol to place the area under tight security upon the advice of the Philippine Historical Commission. He wanted to document all the findings for historical purposes.

The exploration team is composed of Bobby Orillaneda, archeologist from the NM Underwater Archeology Division; Eduardo Sarmiento from the NM Cultural Properties Division; Scott Souther, an Australian master diver and member of Australian Foundation; Nathaniel Floro of Far Sea Land Research Foundation; Felino Neri, a Filipino diver; and Eliza Antonino, a staff of Sen. Mar Roxas who serves as coordinator and guide for the divers.

Warning

Sarmiento warned local folk not to make any attempt to salvage the debris from the wreckage. He said Presidential Decree No. 374 prohibits the collections of objects from the wreckage under the Cultural Properties Preservation and Protection Act.

Orillaneda said the ship was likely to be a trading ship from the 1900s and not a centuries-old galleon.

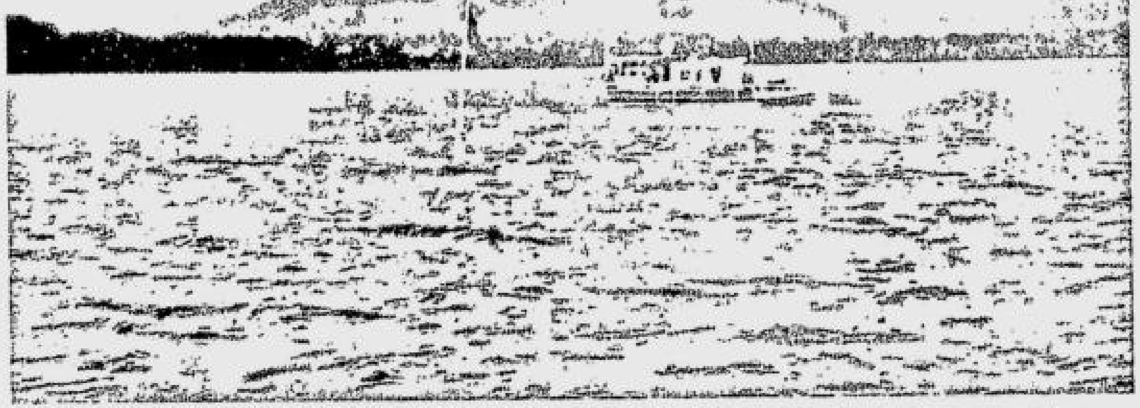
He said their initial examination on the artifacts being kept at the mayor's residence in Barangay Dayao disclosed that they were not as old as 250-year-old galleons.

But he stressed it would be too early to conclude the real age or identity of the sunken vessel as they had yet to properly age the artifacts.

Samples of recovered artifacts would be brought to the National Museum for proper examination. The exploration team was expected to be back in Roxas City next month.

Based on historical records, Orillaneda said, only one galleon has been unearthed and discovered by the National Museum and that was in the waters off Nasugbu, Batangas. It was the San Diego galleon used by the Spaniards.

Roxas City or Panay Island was not one of the routes used by the galleons, he said.



A MARKER banner marks the area where a sunken ship, believed to be a galleon, was found. A Bantay Dagat boat guards the area.

PHOTO BY FELIPE V CELINO

The Manila Galleon Trade

THE TRADE served as the fundamental income-generating business for Spanish colonists living in Manila. A total of 110 Manila Galleons set sail in the 250 years of the Manila-Acapulco galleon trade (1565 to 1815). Until 1593, three or more ships would set sail annually from both ports. The Manila trade was becoming so lucrative that the merchants of Seville petitioned Philip, complaining of their losses, and secured a law in 1593 that set a limit of only two ships to sail each year from either port, with one kept in reserve in both Acapulco and Manila, to control the trade with the exception of an armada, an armed escort. With such limitations, it was essential to build the largest possible galleons, which were the largest wooden ships ever built until that time. In the 16th century, they averaged from 1,700 to 2,000 tons, were built of Philippine hardwoods and might carry a thousand passengers. The Concepcion, wrecked in 1638, was the largest Spanish ship built up to her time—between 140 and 160 feet long and displacing some 2,000 tons. Most of the ships were built in the Philippines and only eight in Mexico. The Manila-Acapulco Galleon trade ended when Mexico gained independence from Spain in 1821.

SOURCE: HTTP://EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG/WIKI/MANILA_GALLEON

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FPJ remembered at Palace rites

Gordon wants to force vote on poll automation

By TJ Burgonio

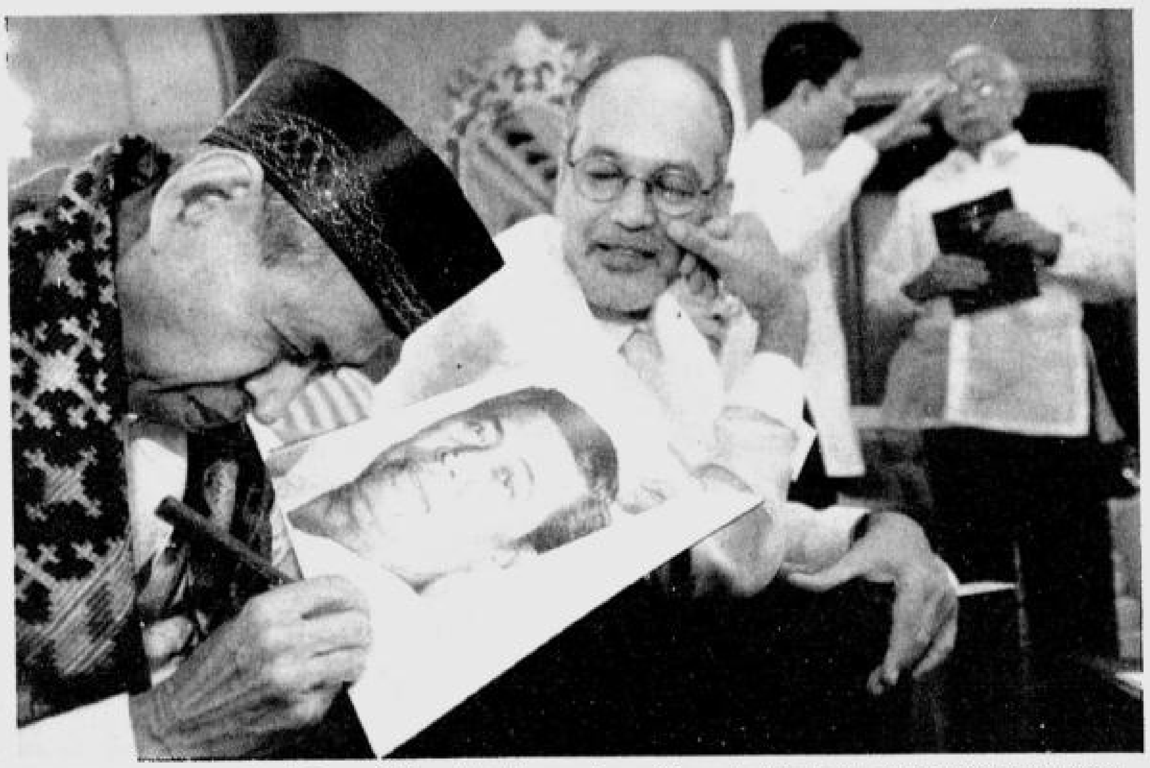
AFTER FIGURING IN A TENSE SESSION WITH opposition senators as the Senate adjourned late Thursday, Sen. Richard Gordon wants to force a vote on his automated election bill, the cause of the excitement, when Congress resumes its regular session next month.

Gordon blew his top over the delayed passage of his pet bill, angrily confronting Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Sen. Sergio Osmeña III and even reportedly challenging the latter to a fist fight.

"I'm disappointed at the cavalier way we're treating something that is very important," the apparently still angry and frustrated Gordon said at a press briefing.

He stressed how important it is to pass the bill which seeks to eliminate election cheating by transmitting the results of the vote electronically.

The senator, who chairs the committee on constitutional amendments, said the bill which has remained stuck in the amendments process, should be put to a vote when Congress reopens on July 24.



AT EASE: At the Palace Music Room, National Artists awardees ask for each other's autographs while they wait for President Arroyo. Abdulmari Asia Imago (left scribbles a dedication of another awardee as Ben Cabrera (center) looks on. Behind them is National Artist for Dance Ramon A. Obusan (right). LYN RILLON

By Christine O. Avendaño

THE FAMILY OF THE LATE movie king Fernando Poe Jr. was a no show at the National Artist conferment rites in Malacañang yesterday. So his award was not handed out.

But the memory of the late actor was alive and well during the conferment rites even if his gold medallion and citation were left unclaimed by his family, who decided to skip the event.

FPJ's friends in business and in life who attended yesterday's rites readily remembered him and his contributions to the film industry.

Poe turned "ordinary screen roles to iconic Filipino every man," according to National Commission on Culture and the Arts (NCCA) chair Ambeth Ocampo.

Emily Abrera, chair of the Cultural Center of the Philippines, called FPJ "a giant of the movie industry." Abrera said that Poe was able to let the oppressed rise above his situation through the many roles played in the movies.

The program was shorter than previous years with the President opting not to give a speech. Organizers called out the names of the National Artist awardees, except for FPJ.

Since Poe's family was not around, no conferment of his award was made.

Organizers did not read his citation anymore and President Macapagal-Arroyo was left to confer the awards to six awardees recognized in their respective fields.

Conferred with the Order of National Artists were Bienvenido Lumbera (Literature), Ramon Obusan (Dance), Benedicto Cabrera (Visual Arts), Idelfonso Santos Jr., (Architecture), Abdulmari Asia Imao (Sculpture) and Ramon Valera (Fashion Design, Allied Arts and Architecture).

Undiminished

Breaking tradition, Obusan gave a "collective response" after the conferment rites. In the past, each awardee gave a response.

National Artist awardee and noted film director Eddie Romero attended the event but didn't accept the award for FPJ because he was no longer authorized by Poe's widow, Susan Roces.

"I don't think they refused to accept the award, they refuse to appear, to receive the award," Romero clarified.

"I would wish for a member of the family to accept the award. After all the award did not come from the President but to fellow actors of FPJ and to the people who admired him," Lumbera said.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said even if Poe's family did not accept the award, this "does not diminish in the least the people's pride in his contributions to the Philippine movie industry, for which the nation lends its fitting recognition and respect."

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said that Poe's family could claim the award in Malacañang "anytime and at their pleasure."

Cecile Guidote Alvarez, Presidential Adviser on Culture, said another ceremony could be held at the NCCA or the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP).

Meanwhile, administration lawmakers yesterday assailed attempts to politicize the award given to the late actor, saying it was given solely for his sterling achievements in the arts and culture.

Representatives Edwin Uy (Lakas, Isabela) and Mauricio Domogan (Lakas, Baguio City) called for a stop to the intrigues following the Poe family's decision not to attend the awarding ceremonies.

With Philip C. Tubeza

Guess who came to the Palace?

By Christine O. Avendaño

GUESS WHO WAS IN MALACAÑANG YESterday?

After earlier making herself scarce, Time magazine correspondent Nelly Sindayen suddenly appeared at the Palace yesterday to attend the conferment rites of the National Artist awards.

But Sindayen, who was being hunted by justice officials and placed on the hold-departure list, declined to talk about her tiff with Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez who has been pressing her to reveal what she knew about the alleged plot to overthrow the Arroyo administration last February.

Sindayen told reporters that she was in Malacañang for fellow Tausug, Abdulmari Asia Imao, one of the National Artist awardees.

Imao was recognized for his work and contributions in the field of Sculpture.

"It's such an honor for a Tausug Muslim to be awarded. I think it's more than high time," Sindayen told reporters.

Gonzalez had earlier summoned Sindayen to get more details about the Feb.22 dinner she attended at the home of businessman and former Tarlac Rep. Jose "Peping" Cojuangco. But she had ignored the summons, prompting Gonzalez to put her on the hold-departure list.

In her article which appeared in Time, Sindayen wrote about telephone conversations that Pastor "Boy" Saycon had with certain officials and which he allowed her to listen. The phone conversations had to do with alleged moves to overthrow the Arroyo administration during the Edsa 1 celebration.

The Time report was used by Malacañang as evidence that there was a conspiracy to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Police say Cordillera killing was well planned

By Villamor Visaya Jr. and Desiree Caluza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

SAN ISIDRO, ISABELA—THE KILLING OF A leader of the militant Cordillera Peoples Alliance (CPA) was a carefully planned operation, the police chief of this town said yesterday.

When the G. Lizardo bus carrying Rafael Markus Bangit, head of the CPA elders' desk, left the terminal in Tabuk, Kalinga, at 5 p.m. on Thursday, a dark blue Mitsubishi Delica van was already closely following, said Supt. Danilo Asirit.

Quoting the bus driver's account, Asirit said the van with five men on board continued to tail the bus until it reached Isabela and stopped at the Pines restaurant in Barangay Quezon, San Isidro, at 7 p.m.

It was outside the restaurant that the gunmen alighted from the van and shot Bangit, 47. Stray bullets hit and killed Gloria Casuga, a high school principal of Quezon town, who was then talking to Bangit.

"The driver saw that the van was tailing the bus, so he diverted it to the Mataas na Kahoy route in San Mateo town. But when the bus reached Alicia town, the driver again saw the van following," Asirit said.

He said the gunmen might have had a lookout on board the bus informing them of Bangit's movements.

The gunmen fled toward Santiago City in the south, police said.

Shock, outrage

In Baguio City, CPA chair Joan Carling said a man on a motorcycle was seen shadowing Bangit in Tabuk days before he was attacked.

Militant groups led by the CPA held a rally yesterday on Session Road to condemn the killing of Bangit, an elder of the Malbong tribe in Tabuk.

"We are shocked, anguished and outraged by this killing, and we demand justice for Makoy Bangit and his family," Carling said, adding:

"Our country is under the reign of terror perpetrated by the state. It is killing its own citizens with impunity, and its leader does not deserve to be in power because she cannot even protect the people."

Carling said Bangit, secretary general of the CPA elders group Binodngan Pongors Organization, was a respected leader known for helping resolve tribal conflicts in the region.

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ROMY HOMILLADA

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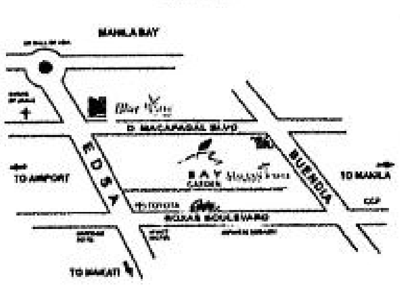

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Another movie theater designed by National Artist faces demolition

By Jerome Aning

THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR Culture and the Arts has activated its "emergency response committee" to monitor, preserve and save from destruction privately-owned buildings or structures designed by National Artists.

"We want to know in advance if the structures designed by these awardees are endangered or are about to be demolished or changed so we can lobby or negotiate to save them," NCCA executive director Cecille Guidote-Alvarez told the INQUIRER. Recently, a wrecking crew had started tearing down the Avenue Theater on Rizal Avenue designed by National Artist Juan Nakpil.

The committee was activated as the NCCA learned that the Galaxy Theater in Sta. Cruz, Manila, a major work of 1976 National Artist for Architecture Pablo Antonio, had been scheduled for demolition to make way for a parking lot.

The NCCA also discovered that at least two old houses along Quiapo's R. Hidalgo Street, particularly the Santiago and Enriquez mansions, had been sold and could be torn down or renovated.

Alvarez said the committee, whose members include NCCA officials, particularly from the heritage sites office, would be networking with conservationists in the private sector to mount a campaign to protect vanishing architectural treasures.

Several conservationists, using their blogspots, have already initiated "e-mail and phone brigades" to convince Manila Mayor Lito Atienza not to issue a demolition permit for Galaxy.

The theater was built in the Art Moderne style, which is more streamlined than Art Deco and dominated by slick lines that convey movement, agility and speed. "Galaxy is a lovely movie house, also among the prime movie houses during its time," said architect Richard Tuason-Sanchez Bautista of the NCCA's heritage sites office.

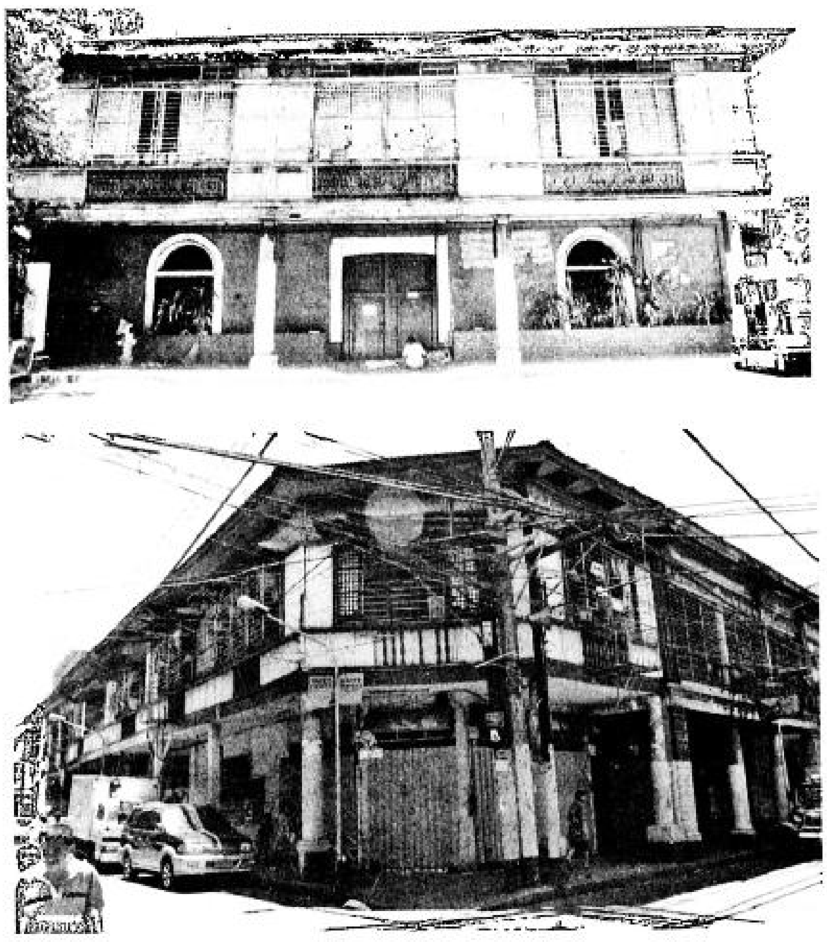
Bautista is documenting the state of the Avenue, Galaxy and other theaters built in the classic style on Rizal Avenue in Sta. Cruz, Manila, which are in danger of being demolished or are falling into a state of disrepair. He is also finishing a book on the works of Nakpil.

"Galaxy's façade has sun *buffles* that create a very dignified character to the structure. The stairway leading the balcony is very graceful while the arcade post is accented with mahjong-like blocks," Bautista said.

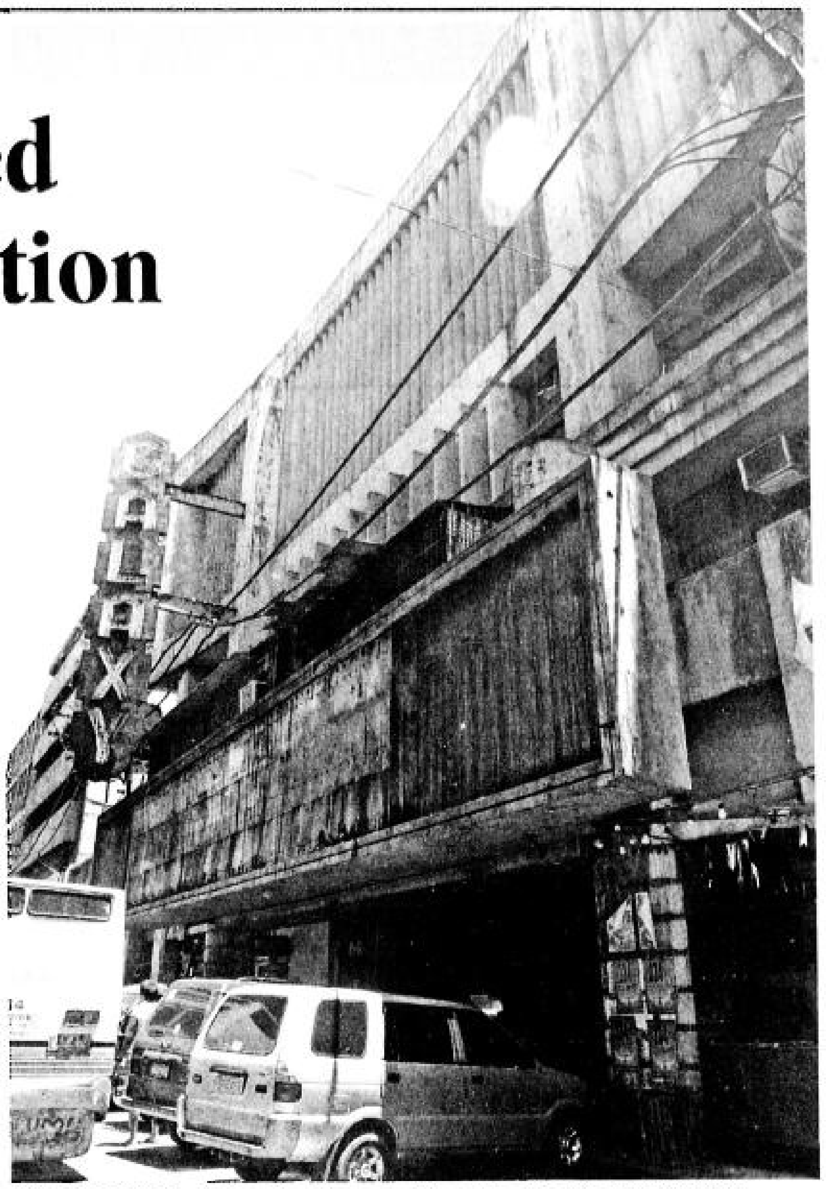
The theater had an original DP70 wide-screen projector, built in Belgium in the '50s, which became popular in international cinemas until the '70s.

Apart from Galaxy, Antonio also designed a row of movie theaters in Manila such as Forum, Ideal, Life, Lyric and Scala. His other works include the Far Eastern University's Administration and Science buildings, the Manila Polo Club, Boulevard-Alhambra (now Bel-Air) apartments) and the Ramon Roces Publications Building (now Guzman Institute of Electronics).

According to Bautista, the Rizal Avenue area is "a remarkable repository" of various art works done by National Artists and leading names in Philippine architecture.



SOME of the old houses on Hidalgo Street in Quiapo, Manila. ROMY HOMILLADA



THE GALAXY Theater on Rizal Avenue will be demolished to make way for a parking lot. ROMY HOMILLADA

METROBRIEFS

Woman killed in fire

A 50-YEAR-OLD businesswoman was killed while trying to save some of her belongings from her burning house in Las Piñas City before dawn yesterday, fire authorities said. Imelda Olivera was already able to get out of her house on Lira Street, Phase II, Moonwalk Village in Barangay Talon, after a fire broke out in the living room at around 4:15 a.m. However, Olivera returned to her home to save some of her belongings, Las Piñas fire marshal Senior Insp. Robert Pacis said. Witnesses also saw Olivera come out of the flaming house and then suddenly return to the burning structure. When the fire was put out at 5:30 a.m., firemen found her body in the master bedroom. Although the cause of the fire has not yet been established, investigators said it could be electricity-related. Apart from the house, the fire also razed the family's car. Firemen estimated the total damage to property at P2 million.

Jocelyn R. Uy

3 nabbed for drugs

THREE suspected drug peddlers were arrested before dawn yesterday after police raided a crowded community in Barangay Tipas, Taguig City where trading in illegal drugs was rampant, police said. Senior Insp. Eufrenio Obong, head of the city's Drug Enforcement Unit (DEU) said Bernie Cruz alias Pogi, Banone Paredes and Ericson Guerrero were arrested after residents in the area topped police about their whereabouts. "They have been the subject of complaints because they have been allegedly selling drugs openly in the streets," Obong told the INQUIRER. The raid was carried out at around 5:30 a.m. by the DEU and the Peace and Order Committee headed by Councilor Henry Duenas. Recovered from the suspects were sachets of methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu worth P8,000, added Obong.

Jocelyn R. Uy

60,000 jobs available

AT LEAST 50 local companies and foreign recruitment agencies will participate in a job fair to be held at Rizal Park on June 12, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. They will be offering more than 60,000 jobs, mostly service-oriented and requiring highly or semiskilled workers, according to the Manila Employment Services Office. There will also be maritime and overseas job opportunities, it added. Most of the local jobs being offered are in call centers, hotels and restaurants, manufacturing plants, as well as in the electronics and health industries. Overseas firms, on the other hand, are looking for machine operators, welders, restaurant staff, electricians and engineers. *Tina G. Santos*

Manila, Valenzuela launch antidengue campaign

By Tina G. Santos
and Nancy C. Carvajal

OFFICIALS OF MANILA AND Valenzuela have stepped up their campaign against dengue after several cases were reported in their respective areas.

"The local government is working full blast to fight the spread of dengue and to protect more people from being afflicted with the illness," Valenzuela Mayor Sherwin Gatchalian said.

Based on a Department of Health report, nearly 200 dengue cases were reported in Valenzuela—mostly in the second district— during the first six months of the year.

There were three deaths, two in January and one in March.

The city was one of five areas in Metro Manila where there was a high incidence of dengue fever, the report added.

In Manila, four cases were reported last week to the city's Preventable Diseases Division (PDD), lower than last year's figures.

"Last year, we had 12 cases during the same period," PDD chief Dr. Eduardo Serrano told the INQUIRER.

Despite the decrease in the cases, however, Serrano said they would be launching an information campaign to raise residents' awareness of how they can curb the spread of the deadly disease which is transmitted by the *Aedes Aegypti* mosquito.

The Manila government likewise ordered barangay officials to post health advisories on how other diseases like influenza and leptospirosis, which usually become prevalent during the rainy season, could be prevented.

"These advisories should be posted prominently not only in barangay halls but in other public places as well," Manila Mayor Lito Atienza said.

Valenzuela City Mayor Sherwin Gatchalian, meanwhile, ordered health officials to conduct fogging operations in suspected breeding areas of the dengue-carrying mosquitoes.

He also called on the public to cooperate with the City Health Office in fighting the spread of the disease by conducting cleanup activities.

"We enjoin residents to help the local government in this effort because this is also their responsibility, and not just that of the local government," Gatchalian said.

Palace guards don't arrest and torture people

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

THE REPORT THAT SOME men from the Presidential Security Group (PSG) were involved in the abduction and alleged torture of five supporters of former President Erap was irresponsible, to say the least.

Brig. Gen. Delfin Bangit, PSG chief, was right in calling it "absurd" and "unimaginable." The source of the report, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, should not have come up with a statement during a Senate hearing that he was checking information that two PSG men were part of the arresting team. It was on that basis that the INQUIRER published the story.

The PSG—and even its predecessor, the Presidential Security Command—has never been involved in the arrest and torture of alleged enemies of the state. Even during the unlamented martial law regime of President Marcos, the PSC never took part in arresting and torturing crime suspects.

I know that for a fact because I was a police reporter during the middle part of Marcos' martial law era. The PSC then and the PSG now concerns itself solely with guarding the First Family and the Vice President.

* * *

The Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) must shoulder the hospital and medical expenses of a PPA official who was seriously injured when a grenade was thrown at the Cotabato City PPA office May 22. The family of Gil Navarra, 57, has complained to me they spent more than P400,000 for his medicines. His daily medicines cost P40,000.

Navarra's bill at the San Pedro Hospital in Davao City was P88,050 as of June 5. The bill keeps mounting every day since Navarra has undergone brain surgery and a tracheotomy, an operation to make him breathe.

The PPA gave the family P250,000 but this has already been spent on hospital and medical expenses, said Geraldson, the victim's son. The PPA should spend for all of Navarra's hospital and medical bills since he was injured while performing his job. By "all," I mean not a single centavo should be spent by the Navarra family for his hospital and medical expenses.

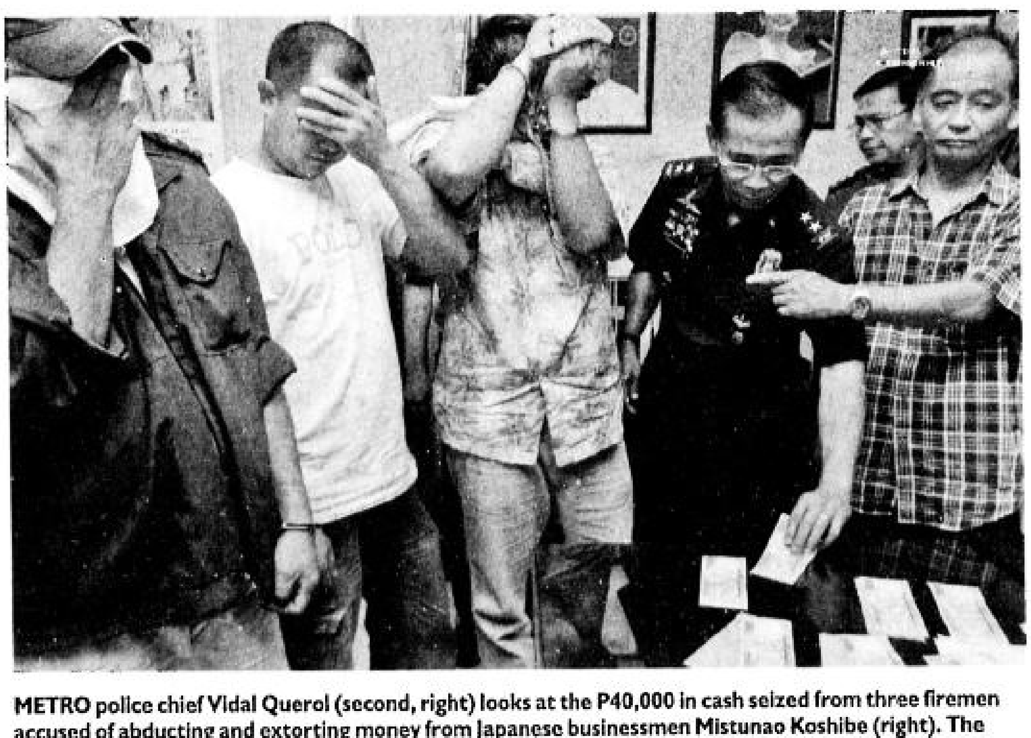
Transportation and Communication Secretary Leandro Mendoza, PPA board chair, and PPA general manager Oscar Sevilla, should know this.

* * *

Lawyers should not make side comments that are unbecoming for people of high education. Pacific Plans Inc. (PPI) spokesperson lawyer Felix Desiderio complained he was indirectly threatened by Mario Ongkiko, lawyer of the Parents Enabling Parents Coalition, during the hearing of the alleged syndicated estafa filed by PEPC against PPI officers.

According to Desiderio, Ongkiko said: "*Sa amin sa Laguna, wala yang bomba-bomba ng building, di namin gagawin yan. Tinatawagan lang namin si Ka Roger* (In Laguna, we don't bomb buildings when we're aggrieved. We just call on *Ka* Roger). Ka Roger is Gregorio Rosal, spokesperson of the New People's Army (NPA).

3 firemen arrested for abducting Japanese trader



METRO police chief Vidal Querol (second, right) looks at the P40,000 in cash seized from three firemen accused of abducting and extorting money from Japanese businessmen Mistunao Koshibe (right). The suspects were arrested in an entrapment operation after the victim's friend sought help from the police. JOAN BONDOC.

By DJ Yap

THREE QUEZON CITY FIREMEN were arrested on Thursday night for allegedly abducting and then extorting money from a Japanese businessman in exchange for his freedom.

Agents of the Quezon City Police District Intelligence and Investigation Division (DIID) caught the suspects, all of the QC Central Fire Station, in an entrapment operation.

The suspects were identified as fire safety inspector SFO1 Fortunato Alde and arson investigators FO2 Noel Bernardino and FO1 Felix Temporoza.

According to their alleged victim, Mitsunao Koshibe, 57, the firemen abducted him on May 30, and detained him for seven days in an unspecified location. The suspects demanded P40,000 for his release, he added.

With the help of the crew of ABS-CBN's investigative TV program, "XXX," a friend of Koshibe, from whom the suspects had contacted and demanded money, sought help from the police who planned an entrapment operation. DIID chief Supt. Roger James Brillantes said the operation resulted in the arrest of the suspects and the release of the Japanese. The police operatives later recovered the P40,000.

Koshibe told police that his troubles began when his girlfriend, Jenny Torres, allegedly stole P2.9 million in mixed currency (Philippine pesos and Japanese yen) from his rented room on April 8.

On May 30, he went to the house of Torres' manager, a certain Jimmy Sy, in La Loma to ask about Torres' whereabouts, but he left disappointed. Angered, he threw a lighted cigarette under Sy's car before proceeding to a nearby bar. At about 11 p.m., Koshibe was waiting for a taxi when Sy, Torres and six others accosted him and took him to the barangay hall for supposedly trying to set fire to Sy's vehicle, he said.

Minutes later, a team of firefighters came to get him.

Iran resumes uranium enrichment work

PARIS—IRAN RESTARTED IMportant nuclear activities on the same day this week that six world powers offered it incentives aimed at encouraging the complete suspension of the nuclear work, the International Atomic Energy Agency reported on Thursday.

On Tuesday, Iran restarted the pouring of a raw form of uranium into a set of 164 centrifuge machines to produce enriched uranium, said the nuclear monitoring agency based in Vienna, Austria.

That same day, Javier Solana, the European Union's foreign policy chief, was in Tehran, where he presented Iranian leaders with an international package of incentives to help resolve the crisis caused by the country's nuclear program.

There was no explanation for Iran's decision.

The revelation seems likely to stiffen the resolve of the United States and the Europeans in particular that a complete freeze of uranium enrichment and reprocessing activities is a condition for formal negotiations.

In April, Iran succeeded in enriching uranium to the low levels needed to fuel a nuclear reactor. Later that month, without explanation, it stopped introducing the raw form of uranium into the fast-spinning centrifuge machines that concentrate uranium into material that can fuel nuclear reactors or bombs. The empty machines continued to run, which is necessary to prevent them from wobbling and crashing.

Iran has continued to enrich uranium in two test centrifuges, so there was never a total halt, the agency report said, and Iran is continuing to build two more 164-centrifuge networks as part of its long-term plan to enrich more uranium.

The report also said that the agency's inspectors had found new traces of highly enriched uranium on equipment on Iran. But the agency has not yet determined whether the traces came from equipment Iran had bought from an outside source or from its own enrichment.

The report also found fault with Iran for failing to make progress on a number of long-standing issues of concern about Iran's nuclear program that have eroded the atomic energy agency's confidence in the country.

The report was sent to the 35 countries on the atomic energy agency's decision-making board in advance of its regularly scheduled meetings in Vienna, Austria, next week. It was distributed on a confidential basis but was quickly made available to reporters.

In Washington, the State Department spokesperson, Sean McCormack, said the United States was still hopeful that Iran would respond positively to the incentives package, but declined to comment in the report that Iran had moved into a new phase of uranium enrichment. *NYT*

Thai king marks 60 years on throne

KING Bhumibol Adulyadej, the world's longest serving monarch, waves to the crowd during rites celebrating his 60th anniversary of becoming Thailand's king. AP

BANGKOK, THAILAND—HUNdreds of thousands of adoring Thais thronged Bangkok's Royal Plaza on Friday to cheer and wave yellow flags as their king marked his 60th year on the throne by calling for unity following months of political upheaval.

King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the world's longest-serving monarch, wore a glittering golden gown and greeted the crowd from the palace balcony in only the third such appearance of his royal career, amid the salutes of booming cannons.

"Unity is a basis for all Thais to help preserve and bring prosperity to the country in the long run," the king said in his five-minute speech. "If Thais uphold these ethics, it will ensure that Thailand will stand firmly," he said.

The crowd welcomed his appearance with a deafening roar. Many of them began gathering late Thursday to turn the roads near the Royal Plaza into a sea of yellow—with their yellow shirts and flags symbolizing the monarchy.

After his speech, Bhumibol and Queen Sirikit stood on the balcony and waved to the gathered Thais, who cried, held their hands together in reverence and chanted, "Long Live The King."

"I feel like I am getting to meet with our father," popular Thai actor Sarawuth Poomthong said in the muggy heat. "This has always been one of my dreams to see the king."

Regarded by many Thais as semi-divine or as the soul of Thailand, the 78-year-old king is much-loved for launching development projects to benefit the rural poor and using his moral influence to calm the country during political turmoil.

Royalty and heads of state from around the world have descended upon Bangkok for the festivities, which will include fireworks, feasts and a river parade featuring dozens of gilded ceremonial boats.

Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who has been a lightning rod for the country's recent turmoil with critics massing in the street to protest his alleged corruption and demand his ouster, told the crowd that the king has helped keep the country centered.

"Thailand has been savaged by many crises and the people have lived with happiness significantly because of the king's power," Thaksin told the crowd.

Although a constitutional monarch with limited powers, the king has used his prestige over the years during political crises to force opposing parties to compromise for the sake of peace and stability.

In April, the king rapped the nation's top courts for failing to resolve the political deadlock that left Thailand with no working legislature after inconclusive April 2 elections that were boycotted by the opposition. After being called on the carpet by the king, the nation's top court annulled the vote, paving the way for new polls.

"The king has been a center of faith, a source of moral support and power for the nation, who has driven the country with perseverance, balance and good conscience," Thaksin said.

Thailand has declared a five-day public holiday for the events, closing Tuesday with a royal banquet.

Heads of states and representatives of royal houses from 25 countries—including Japan's Emperor Akihito, Britain's Prince Andrew and Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands—were expected to attend the celebrations.

Thais have been celebrating informally for weeks, with everyone from street vendors to office workers, television anchors and Cabinet members donning yellow shirts in the king's honor. Yellow corresponds by tradition with the day he was born, Monday.

King Bhumibol was named king on June 9, 1946, after the death of his older brother. *AP*

S. Korea launches new sub

SEOUL—SOUTH KOREA'S navy on Friday launched a new submarine equipped with advanced sensors and weapons systems and capable of staying underwater for up to 50 days.

The 1,800-ton 214-class submarine was launched from the Hyundai Heavy Industries shipyard in the southeastern port of Ulsan, the Navy said in a press release.

It is the first of a series of nine 214-class submarines that will be built locally over the next 12 years, navy sources said.

The vessel has a top speed of 20 knots with a crew of 40 and is armed with advanced weapons including anti-ship cruise missiles. *AFP*

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The Bidding Schedule is as follows:	Date	Venue
Issuance of Bid Documents	June 13-23, 2006 (8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.)	NFA RO8 Pawing, Palo, Leyte
Pre-bidding conference	June 26, 2006, (9:30 a.m.)	NFA Conf. Rm. Pawing, Palo, Leyte
Submission & Opening of Bids	July 7, 2006 (9:30 a.m.)	-do-

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(Sgd.) ANTONIO J. ADORABLE
Assistant Regional Manager
Chairman, NFA-RBAC

(PDI - June 10 & 16, 2006)

PALESTINIANS protest June 8 against a plan by Abbas to hold a referendum on establishing a Palestinian state alongside the Jewish state. REUTERS

Israel assassinates Hamas security chief

RAFAH, GAZA STRIP—PALESTINIAN militants vowed Friday to avenge Israel's assassination of the Hamas government's top security chief, an attack that threatened to ignite large-scale violence between the two sides.

Hours after his death, Palestinians in the Gaza Strip fired two rockets into Israel, hitting a building in the southern town of Sderot, but causing no casualties, the military said. No one claimed responsibility for the rocket fire.

The security chief, Jamal Abu Samhadana, was a key player in ongoing Palestinian rocket attacks against Israel, and a close ally of the militantly anti-Israel Hamas radicals who now govern the Palestinian Authority.

His appointment as Hamas' top enforcer helped to set the stage for recent Palestinian infighting that has killed 16 people and raised the specter of all-out civil war between the ruling party and the long-ruling Fatah movement it unseated in January parliamentary elections.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas of Fatah is eager to restart long-stalled peace talks with Israel, whose destruction Hamas seeks, and on Saturday, is to announce a late-July date for a national referendum on establishing a Palestinian state alongside the Jewish state.

Hamas government officials called Abu Samhadana's killing a direct assault on the Palestinian Authority, and vowed to continue its resistance against the Jewish state. Abu Samhadana's Popular Resistance Committees faction vowed revenge.

"God willing, our retaliation shall come," blared a loudspeaker on a car carrying Abu Sharif, a top PRC commander, as it toured Gaza streets shortly after the air strike, which occurred shortly before midnight Thursday.

"It will not be by statements, but by rockets toward Sderot and all the Zionist community. It will be by self-sacrificing martyrs who will blow up themselves in every corner."

Israeli police spokesperson Micky Rosenfeld said Friday that security officials were aware of threats of revenge, and were taking general precautions. He did not elaborate.

The Israeli military said it struck a PRC training camp in the southern Gaza town of Rafah because militants there were planning a large-scale attack on Israel. It would not confirm or deny that Abu Samhadana, the No. 2 man on Israel's wanted list, had been the target. *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Swiss thwart plot to attack El Al plane

BERN—Swiss justice authorities said Thursday that they had thwarted a plot by a group of North Africans to attack a plane of the Israeli airline El Al, and had made seven arrests in the process. The Federal Prosecutor's Office said that the individuals had been seized in sweeps which began on May 12 in Zurich and Basel, following an investigation which had shown that their cell had "very seriously considered" attacking the Israeli carrier in Switzerland. The office did not reveal the individuals' names or nationalities. According to unconfirmed Swiss media reports, the El Al plot involved shooting down a plane at Geneva airport during landing or take-off, from outside the airport perimeter. A similar attack on an Israeli plane, claimed by Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network, took place in Mombasa, Kenya, in November 2002. *AFP*

Norway rethinks role as S. Lanka peace broker

COLOMBO—Norway said Friday that it would reconsider its role as Sri Lankan peace broker after failing in a fresh bid to arrange a meeting between the island's warring parties. The Oslo government said in a statement issued here it had taken the "unprecedented step" of writing to the Sri Lankan government and the Tamil Tiger rebels asking them about their commitment to the peace bid. "The responses by the parties ... will determine which steps will next have to be taken by the Norwegian government and the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission, in close partnership with other actors in the international community," the statement said. Norway officially declared talks in Oslo on Thursday between the government and rebels a failure after failing to orchestrate a face-to-face encounter between the two, blaming the Tigers for the breakdown. *AFP*

Nato to boost Afghan mission

BRUSSELS—Nato vowed on Thursday to nearly double its peacekeeping force in Afghanistan in spite of growing violence, urging donors to do more to rebuild the country and the government to stamp out corruption. The 26-nation alliance has approved plans to increase troops to about 17,000 from 9,000 and expand into the insurgent-troubled south by late July, taking Nato into what could be its toughest ground combat since its creation in 1949. "We are under no illusion that our future task will be easy. Challenges and dangers lie ahead," Nato Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer told defense ministers from the alliance, and Afghanistan itself, in Brussels. "I'll be blunt: more resources are urgently needed for reconstruction and development," he said, calling on the United Nations, the European Union, the Group of Eight wealthy countries and others to come forward with more aid. Alliance officials have blamed deteriorating security in part on poverty and desperation still faced by millions of Afghans, while corruption has fueled resentment. *Reuters*

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1. The Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA), through its corporate budget intends to apply the sum of **Ten Million Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php 10,500,000.00)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for Security Services for PRA Properties. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The PRA now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the Security Services for PRA Properties for one (1) year. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Annex C of the Terms of Reference (TOR).
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act." Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents starting June 19, 2006 from 8:00AM to 5:00 PM.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased from June 19 to 26, 2006 by interested Bidders from the BAC Secretariat and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of Ten Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php 10,500.00). The method of payment will be cash or check payable to PRA. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The PRA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on June 27, 2006 at 10:00 A.M. at the PRA Conference Room, 8th Floor Legaspi Towers 200, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the PRA Office on or before July 11, 2006 at 10:00 A.M. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form and amount indicated in the Terms of Reference (TOR). Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on July 11, 2006 at 10:15 A.M. at the PRA Conference Room, 8th Floor Legaspi Towers 200, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
9. Prospective Bidders should have undertaken a similar project within the last three (3) years with amount not less than Php10,500,000.00, and should have key personnel and equipment available for the prosecution of the project.
10. Pursuant to BIR Revenue Regulations 03-2005, all prospective bidders are mandated to file their income and business tax returns electronically using the Electronic Filing and Payment System (EFPS).
11. The PRA assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.
12. The PRA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) JOSEFINA L. CASTRO
BAC Chairperson

(PDI—June 10 & 19, 2006)

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Curfew in Baghdad

Zarqawi death spurs tighter security

BAGHDAD—BAGHDAD WAS PLACED UNDER curfew Friday to enhance security in the wake of two evening bombings in marketplaces that followed news that al-Qaida in Iraq leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi had been killed.

Even as US and Iraqi officials predicted that Zarqawi's surviving lieutenants would launch new attacks to assert their organization's continued presence in the country, two car bombs exploded in predominantly Shiite neighborhoods killing 15 people.

"The curfew is a measure to keep people indoors as there could be more bombings like the ones last night, following Zarqawi's death," a defense ministry official said.

Vehicles will be banned from the streets of Baghdad and nearby Baquba, close to where Zarqawi was killed, from 11 a.m. (0700 GMT) until 5 p.m. (1300 GMT), coinciding with Friday prayers.

Zarqawi was killed Wednesday in a joint US-Iraqi raid.

US F-16 war planes dropped two 500-pound bombs on him and some associates as they were huddled in a meeting at a safe house.

Imposition of curfews in Baghdad and Baquba addresses the main question in the wake of Zarqawi's killing, namely the extent to which his death will affect the wave of violence claiming dozens of lives across the country each day.

In marked contrast to the aggressive and victorious rhetoric characteristic of the weeks after the fall of Saddam Hussein in April 2003, or even Saddam's capture that December, US officials have been remarkably cautious.

US President George W. Bush described the event as a "victory" in the war on terror and a chance to "turn the tide." *AFP*

JUST ANOTHER DAY AT THE 'OFFICE'
A girl ties up a sack after a day's work in a garbage dump in New Delhi June 8. REUTERS

Vaccine to protect against cervical cancer wins US approval

WASHINGTON—WOMEN FOR the first time have a vaccine to protect themselves against cervical cancer.

The Food and Drug Administration on Thursday licensed the vaccine, Gardasil, for use in girls and women ages 9 to 26. The vaccine works by preventing infection by four of the dozens of strains of the human papillomavirus, or HPV, the most prevalent sexually transmitted disease.

By age 50, some 80 percent of women have been infected.

Gardasil protects against the two types of HPV responsible for about 70 percent of cervical cancer cases. The vaccine also blocks infection by two other strains responsible for 90 percent of genital wart cases. The vaccine will be available by the end of the month, with a three-shot series costing $360 (euro285).

Its manufacturer, Merck & Co. Inc., seeks similar approval elsewhere around the world. Each year, cervical cancer kills an estimated 240,000 women worldwide, including 3,700 in the United States.

"FDA approval of the HPV vaccine, the first vaccine targeted specifically to preventing cancer, is one of the most important advances in women's health in recent years," said Dr. Carolyn Runowicz, president of the American Cancer Society. The vaccine developed for hepatitis B has been shown to protect against liver cancer.

Clinical trials showed Gardasil prevented 100 percent of cervical cancer related to the two HPV strains in women who had not been previously infected, Merck said. It also prevented 99 percent of the cases of genital warts caused by the two other strains.

"Fortunately, we can now include the worst types of HPV and most cervical cancer in the list of diseases that no one need suffer or die from ever again," said Alex Azar, deputy Health and Human Services secretary.

Research presented earlier suggests an added bonus to Gardasil: It also protects against vaginal and vulvar cancers linked to the four types of HPV.

Gardasil works best when given to girls before they begin having sex and run the risk of HPV infection. The vaccine does not protect those already infected.

The FDA said that Gardasil appeared very safe. It remains unclear if its effect is long-lasting or if women will need booster shots later in life. Merck will monitor its long-term effectiveness. *AP*

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Islamists tighten grip on Mogadishu

MOGADISHU—SOMALI ISLAMISTS CONSOLidated their grip on the lawless capital Mogadishu Thursday, setting up new Sharia law courts in and around the city despite vows from a US-backed warlord alliance to resist.

With most of Mogadishu under their control after months of bloody fighting, Muslim militia pulled back from the warlords' last stronghold under pressure from elders not to attack, easing a tense three-day standoff.

Witnesses said the Islamists moved back from Jowhar, about 90 km north of Mogadishu, and that warlord fighters had taken up their former position at Kalimoy, some 10 km south of the town.

"Elders convinced the Islamic courts to move back from Kalimoy," one mediator told reporters in Jowhar. "We are trying to cool tensions."

In the town, about 1,500 people rallied in support of the warlords.

"We will defend ourselves if the Islamists attack," said Abdullahi Wehl Adle, chairman of the Middle Shabelle regional council.

"We will fight to the death to defend our people and our territory."

Despite their partial withdrawal, which put them near the town of Balad about 30 km north of Mogadishu, the Islamists expanded their influence even as clerics sent mixed messages about their ultimate goal.

Despite assurances they will not forcibly impose strict Islamic rule on Somalia's largely moderate Muslim population, imams have created at least three new Sharia courts in formerly secular areas since Wednesday, officials said. *AFP*

East Timor says it will need UN help for a decade

DILI, EAST TIMOR—THE UN SHOULD HELP oversee elections in East Timor and stay involved in the violence-scarred nation for at least a decade, the foreign minister said Friday, noting that restoring order and building a democracy will take time and money.

Jose Ramos-Horta said it was in no one's interest to see East Timor — where riots, looting arson and gunfire have engulfed the capital just four years after it won independence — turn into a "failed state."

"I believe that East Timor, even in light of current events, is still a success story," Ramos-Horta said in a commentary in the Wall Street Journal's Asian edition. "The significance of the events of the past month has more to do with the depths of instability from which East Timor has risen, rather than the heights of security it has yet to aspire to."

Some 600 striking soldiers were dismissed in March, triggering clashes with loyalist forces and leading to gang warfare in the capital last month. At least 30 people have been killed, and Ramos-Horta has said the death toll may be higher. *AP*

SPORTS

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RED BULL forward Rich Alvarez beats Ginebra strongman Eric Menk to the rebound in last night's game. ERIK ARAZAS

Gin Kings thrash Bulls

GAMES TOMORROW *(Araneta Coliseum)*
4:10 p.m.—Alaska vs Coca-Cola
6:30 p.m.—Red Bull vs Brgy Ginebra

By June Navarro

RED BULL'S DEFENSIVE PLOY on Mark Caguioa didn't work. Worse, rookie Mark Macapagal even rode Barangay Ginebra's scoring bandwagon.

Caguioa and Macapagal combined for 30 points in the third quarter as the Kings cruised to a 112-103 thrashing of the Bulls to even up their PBA Philippine Cup quarterfinal series last night at the Araneta Coliseum.

Caguioa, who finished with 31 points on top of 12 rebounds, three assists and three steals, came up with 14 points in the pivotal third while Macapagal sizzled from three-point range and pumped in 16 of his 21 points there.

Eric Menk delivered a game-high 35 points and grabbed 16 boards, marking the first time that two players in a team scored at least 30 points in a local tournament since Menk and Sonny Alvarado did it in 2000 while playing for Tanduay.

"Eric's a warrior," said Ginebra coach Siot Tanquingcen, who leveled the best-of-five series to 1-1. Game 3 is set tomorrow at the Big Dome. "He's the glue that keeps us together."

But while Caguioa and Menk are known offensive threats, Macapagal wasn't expected to give the Bulls a lot of headaches.

"He's a Cinderella story," said Tanquingcen.

Unsigned by the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals after being picked 18th overall, Macapagal tried his luck with the Gin Kings and finally got his biggest break when Jayjay Helterbrand suffered from a sore hip in the wildcard phase.

"He (Macapagal) proved to everybody that he deserves to be in the league," said Tanquingcen.

Led by Lordy Tugade's 19 points and Larry Fonacier's 16 markers, the Bulls let Caguioa and Macapagal explode in the third as the Kings turned a narrow 52-50 edge to a 90-70 balloon.

Tanquingcen, however, wasn't happy with the way the referees handled the brute physicality of the game.

"Being physical is a part of the game but not the point of deliberately hurting the player," said Tanquingcen. "If the player gets severely hurt, he might lose his livelihood."

The reserved Ginebra coach was pointing out two instances when Red Bull's Junthy Valenzuela threw a closed fist on Caguioa's nape and followed it up with a elbow on the kisser in the first half.

The scores:

GINEBRA 112—Menk 35, Caguioa 31, Macapagal 21, Ferreria 9, Solto 6, Echavez 6, Salangsang 4, Helper 0, Ramos 0, Salvacion 0.

RED BULL 103—Tugade 19, Fonacier 16, Pennisi 13, Najorda 12, Bugia 8, Robinson 8, Valenzuela 8, Cruz 5, Villanueva 5, Baguio 4, Hrabak 3, Alvarez 2.

Quarters: 21-26, 52-50, 90-71, 112-103.

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Fiba-Asia wants BAP suspension lifted

By Marc Anthony Reyes

A STEP CLOSER TO SOLVING basketball woes?

The Fiba-Asia (international basketball federation-Asia) yesterday unanimously approved the resolution asking the Fiba Central Board to lift the suspension of the Basketball Association of the Philippines, according to BAP president Joey Lina.

Lina, who attended the Fiba-Asia congress in Kuwait last Thursday, said it "was a breakthrough in our quest to finally take part again in international basketball competitions."

Initiated by the BAP itself, the resolution now waits for the decision of the Fiba Central Board which will meet in August in Saitama, Japan, for the World Championships.

LINA

The Philippines missed three important tournaments last year after it was suspended by Fiba, namely, the Southeast Asian championships, Asian Basketball Confederation and the SEA Games which has been dominated by the country since 1987.

Philippine Olympic Committee spokesman Joey Romasanta said the BAP announcement didn't assure anything. But he admitted that Fiba-Asia is "sympathetic" to the BAP, which the POC expelled because of its policies that don't sit well with the POC.

Romasanta said the POC, which is pushing for a group called Pilipinas Basketball composed of basketball stakeholders in the country, is merely following the advice of Fiba-World secretary general Patrick Baumann.

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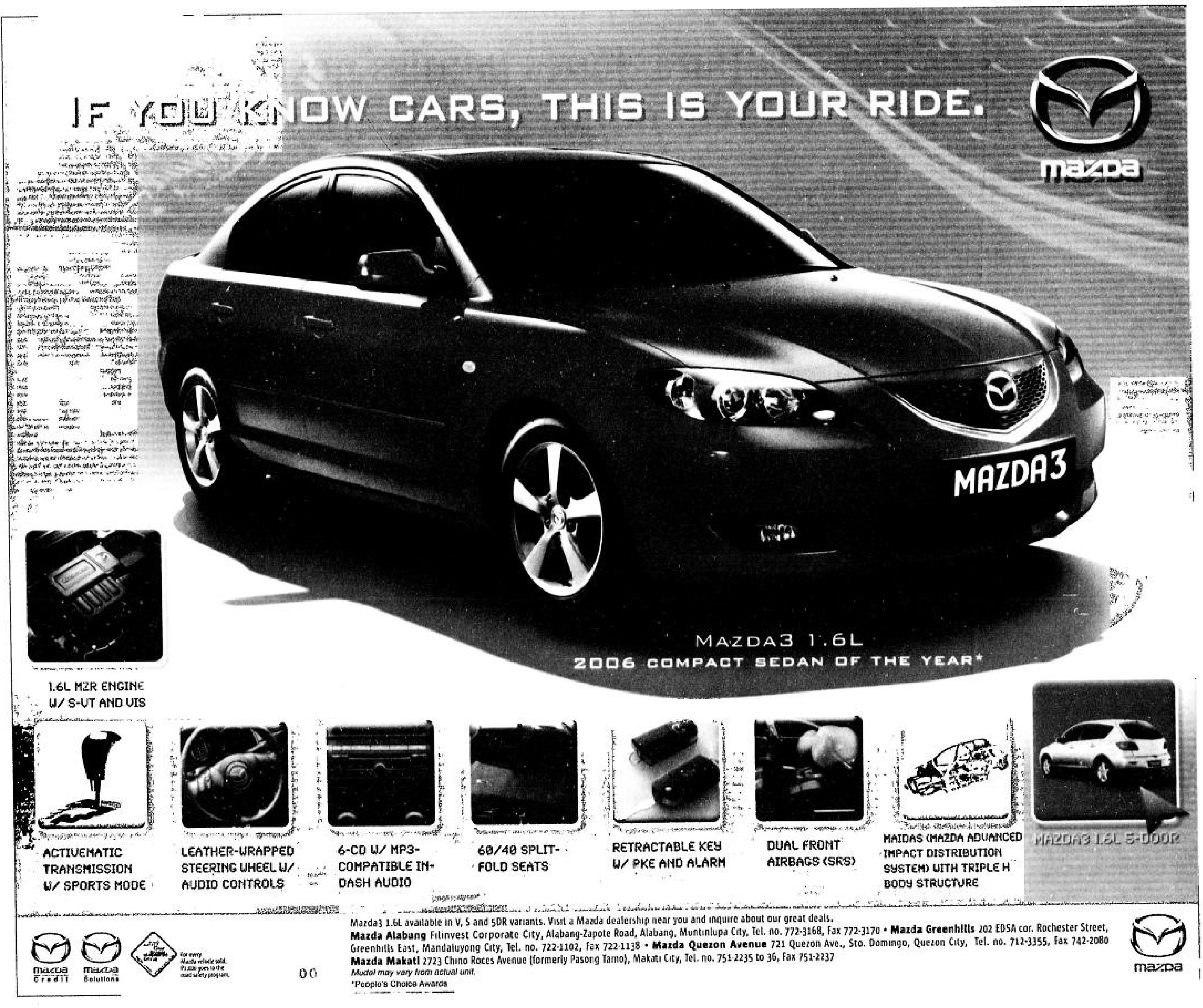
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Spring-Parañaque, Ozamiz rule NBC eliminations

FAVORITE SPRING-PARAÑAQUE beat Valencia, 100-94, Thursday to top the northern division eliminations in the 2006 Guerrero Brandy-NBC national basketball championship at the Valencia City gym in Bukidnon.

Defending champion Ozamiz Cotta also stamped its dominance in the southern classification round by crushing the visiting Iloilo Warriors, 107-85, in Ozamiz City.

NBC president Nathaniel Padilla's Cooking Oil Masters finished with a 7-4 record while Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog's Ozamiz cagers chalked up a 9-2 slate and gained home court advantage throughout the playoffs.

Playmaker Aldrin Morante and Bambi Barnson produced big games as the Cooking Oil Masters topped for the first time the northern group of the tourney sponsored by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Nature's Spring Mineral Water, Spring Cooking Oil, Regent Foods, Firefly Lightings, Molten and Prime Channel.

Ex-pro Marlon Basco sizzled with 21 points and 14 rebounds as Ozamiz boosted its bid to repeat as NBC national champion.

The scores:

SPRING 100—Morante 22, Barnson 17, Epondulan 13, Yee 12, De Castro 9, Reyes 8, Capobres 8, Tiongco 7, Soriano 2, Iñigo 1, Lagazo 0, Manuel 0, Neo 0.

VALENCIA 94—Cruz 25, Navales 15, Cabili 9, Berami 9, Nallon 6, Celiz 6, Clavel 6, Cesar 6, Adams 3, Cummings 3, Concha 2, Taligatos 0, Romaguera 0, Brago 0.

Quarters: 31-24, 59-54, 89-73, 100-94.

OZAMIZ 107—Basco 21, Sampilo 20, Bansil 15, Yabut 10, Cavan 8, Alvarado 5, Caylan 5, Llangco 5, Libatog 5, Guerrero 5, Ilanga 4, Lapera 2, Alberto 2, Delina 0.

ILOILO 85—Balgos 18, Sanz 17, Leonida 12, Singco 12, Senierez 7, Sencil 6, Bautista 5, Poral 4, Unarce 4, Sina-on 0.

Quarters: 20-25, 47-43, 79-73, 107-85.

Germany hopes to put up show

Tackles Costa Rica in WC opener

BERLIN—GERMANY GO INTO THE opening match of the 2006 World Cup finals on Friday hoping that they can put on a show worthy of the opening ceremony and the fireworks don't end in a damp squib with defeat at the hands of Costa Rica.

Opening match shocks are no stranger to football's showpiece event and the Costa Ricans also can pull them off as they showed when they beat Scotland and Sweden to reach the last 16 in the 1990 edition.

The match too should serve to energize German public support for the tournament that awards the greatest prize in sport and which is being held in the country for just the second time, 32 years after the then West Germany was host.

While in England in particular the buildup has been passionate with thousands of flags of St. George hanging from pubs, houses and cars—with even Prime Minister Tony Blair agreeing to hang a flag from 10 Downing Street—enthusiasm has been more muted in Germany.

A rarer sight too could be the presence of Michael Ballack in the German shirt at the tournament for just as seemingly all England let themselves breathe again as Wayne Rooney was passed fit to play at least a part in the tournament, the German's main hope of leading them to glory was signing off for the opener because of a calf injury.

Indeed whether the 29-year-old Chelsea signing remains a darling of the German fans remains to be seen as he has been criticized for not having the injury attended to quicker—something that he was quick to deny.

"I reject any insinuation that I behaved in any way unprofessionally," said Ballack in a statement carried on the DFB website.

"Any such allegations are totally unacceptable. It's essentially an attack on my reputation, the things that are being said about me and what's being put about."

The other match on day one will be a lower key affair with Poland taking on Ecuador in Gelsenkirchen with both sides endeavoring to achieve something they didn't manage in 2002 and progress beyond the first round.

Whatever the results there will be one certain winner on the opening day when the first ball is kicked and that will be German football legend Franz Beckenbauer.

The legendary defender must be the first man to have won the World Cup as a player, a coach and then as a bid leader as his stunning one man presentation—incorporating a bit of showmanship—back in 2000 helped win it at the death from the stunned South Africans.

The South Africans were of course to have their day later on and will host the 2010 renewal but on Friday they will have to sit back and watch the finals that Beckenbauer won commence and the "Kaiser" will hope that all his efforts do not end flatly.

He will have no influence on what happens on the pitch but somehow with all that has gone before in his career it seems unlikely that he will be disappointed or that his country will let him down. *AFP*

BRAZILIAN soccer players Robinho (left) and Cicinho celebrate a goal during their training session in Offenbach, Germany. REUTERS

Brazil practice lures 25,000

OFFENBACH—BRAZIL'S HISTORIC reputation as international football's glamour team was reinforced on Thursday when 25,000 people turned up here to watch a training session.

Around 500 journalists were also on hand to witness the defending champions go through their paces in the obligatory, open World Cup workout.

Coach Carlos Alberto Parreira organized an exhibition match for the team's impressive audience.

With Ronaldo absent with a fever, the team was composed of Dida, Cafu, Juan, Lucio, Roberto Carlos, Emerson, Ze Roberto, Robinho, Ronaldinho, Adriano and Kaka. The game finished 2-2 with Robinho and Adriano on target while Mineiro and Luisao were the scorers for the "other" Brazil. *AFP*

Dimakiling, Torre prevail

NEWLY INSTALLED FILIPINO INTERNATIONAL master and 47th pick Oliver Dimakiling (Elo 2452) trounced Ukrainian GM No. 19 Alexander Goloshchapov (Elo 2556) using the white pieces and moved closer toward his first GM result in the fifth round of the 2nd San Marino International Chess Open Thursday at the Kursaal Congress Center in Republic of San Marino.

Dimakiling, 26, now has 4.0 points, the same output of compatriot GM Eugene Torre, top seed GM Sergei Tiviakov (Elo 2669) of the Netherlands and nine others.

The 26th-seed Torre, nipped No. 61 Fabio Bruno of Italy.

Overnight solo leader No. 6 GM Vadim Milov (Elo 2625) of Switzerland halved the point with Dutch GM Tiviakov to create a four-way logjam for first place with 4.5 points each.

They are Milov, No. 10 GM Jaan Ehlvest (Elo 2607) of Estonia, No. 15 GM Varuzhan Akobian (Elo 2575) of the US and No. 22 GM Tomasz Markowski (Elo 2554) of Poland.

GM Mark Paragua (Elo 2617) and reigning RP national champion NM Darwin Laylo (Elo 2406) stumbled against No. 35 IM Diego Flores (Elo 2494) of Argentina and No. 31 GM Miso Cebalo (Elo 2506) of Croatia, respectively.

Paragua and Laylo got stuck at 3.0 points and dropped to a share of 34th place in the 148 man-field. Tied with them were countryman FM Wesley So and NM Rolando Nolte, who beat their respective foes. So shocked IM Vinay Bhat of the US while Nolte beat Axel Delorme of Italy. *NM Marlon Bernardino*

Interia, Villena clinch crowns

By Marc Anthony Reyes

ALABANG-MUNTINLUPA BOWLING ASSOCIAtion's Jack Interia and MBA's Rory Villena displayed steady hands and steely nerves to capture the men's and women's senior masters championships yesterday in the 35th PBC-Boysen International Open Tenpin Bowling at the Green Valley lanes.

Interia rolled lines of 226-188-289-212-252-236-207-168-215-180 to come up with a total of 2253 pinfalls, beating PBAP's Yoon Boo Yong and TBAM-Prima's Erick Abrantes, who settled for second and third place, respectively.

Yong had 2113 on series of 171-192-199-235-231-193-197-200-177-158, while Abrantes tallied 2100 on lines of 234-156-155-211-184-205-166-179-183-267 in the tourney for bowlers 50 years old and above.

Villena clinched the Ladies side with a 2072 total after finishing the block with a 213-182-245-160-189-170-212-177-220-224. Mila Robles of PBA had 188-200-178-164-188-170-190-158-203-163 for 1962.

Former World Cup champion and Asian Games multi-gold winner Bong Coo settled for third place with 1946 on lines of 190-180-183-173-167-216-182-187-184-204.

Meanwhile, Asian Games champion and 2003 Asian Tour victor Liza del Rosario fashioned out a rousing debut Thursday night to snag seventh place in the Ladies Open Masters qualifying.

Her entry shook up the standings as she rolled 222-232-194-220 for an average of 217 in the singles event which serves as the basis for the Masters competitions that begins June 16.

Liza Clutario, reigning SEAG masters champion, remains the leader with a 234.50 average, followed by Irene Benitez (223), Apple Posadas (22.75), Holly Josef (221.25), Elaine Florencio (220.5), Del Rosario, Cheche Abrantes (210.5) and Sheena Go (210).

SPORTSWATCH

Mandaluyong non-master chess

PARTICIPANTS TO THE MANDALUYONG CITY NON-MASTER OPEN ACTIVE Chess Championship started to pour in as the one-day event draws near on June 17. Among the early registrants to the event organized by the Mandaluyong City Chess Association are Vernon Lisboa, Michelle Marcelo Cruzada, Jun Mantupar, Allan Macala, Gary Marcelino, Christian Flores, Jerry Areque, Dennis San Juan, Leo Daylo Jr. and Franz Grafil. National Chess Federation of the Philippines director and tournament arbiter/organizer Willie Abalos said the venue will still be at Starmall in Mandaluyong. Contact 0921-621-9898 and Ilann Perez at 0915-519-8676.

JVC Open registration ends

THE JVC OPEN BADMINTON CHAMPIONSHIPS REGISTRY IS EXPECTED TO swell as deadline for registration ends at 5 p.m. today. For details, log on to www.jvcbadminton.com or email at jvcbadminton@hotmail.com or contact 894-2995, 8929866, 725-2568 or txt 0917 8050702 (Tonette), 0917-805-0601 (Carol) or 0917-532-8970 (Nelson). Entry forms can also be downloaded from the event's website and can be sent through fax at 894-2995 and 892-9866. The organizing IMG will hold a series of qualifiers in various divisions from June 25 to July 1 at Powersmash.

World Slasher Cup II June 13

THE WORLD SLASHER CUP II WILL MARK ITS 43RD YEAR AT THE ARANETA Coliseum on June 13, 15 and 17. The biannual tournament is expected to be closely fought between masters of the cockfighting game from the United States and the Philippines. Challengers from the United States will be led by Roger Roberts 2001 World Slasher champion from Georgia, Johnny Moore of Tennessee, Joe Stanfield of California and Johnny Philips also of Georgia. They will be beefed up by Fil-American cockers like Sedfrey Linsangan, Vic Diez and Mar Gatmaitan of Guam; Kali Casco, Bobby Casco and Tammy Madela of Hawaii.

70 fights at Las Piñas Coliseum

TOP-RATED COCKERS AND BREEDERS FROM BATANGAS AND CAVITE COLlide with their counterparts from Metro Manila when the special 4-cock derby sizzles tonight at Las Piñas Coliseum. The 70-fight program starts at 7. Host Marlon de Castro of DMC entry also invited participants from the Batangas Breeders Club as well as Gentlemen Cockers Association of the Philippines to make the event highly competitive. Entries must be submitted before 2 p.m. and interested parties may call 873-1040 and 874-3910 for details.

Tag-ulan derby at Roligon

SIXTY- EIGHT MATCHES WILL SPICE UP THE GRAND BATTLE OF PROVINCIAL cockers today at Roligon Mega Cockpit's Pahabol Sa Tag-ulan 4-cock derby. Action starts at 5 p.m. Hosts Inday and Edgar Coronel of Rizal said the cash prize at stake is P400,000. The fastest win champion will get a bonus of P20,000. Meanwhile, more than 80 participants have signed up as of yesterday in Roligon's "Hatawan Sa Tag-ulan 6-cock derby. Slated on July 1, 4, 6, 8 and 11 and with P3.5 million at stake, the event will be hosted by Rolly Ligon. Contact 851-2275, 833-1638 and 852-9812 (Shirley or Jona).

Burlington

YOUNG CAGERS: The Batang Pateros-Ginebra squad of the Burlington-Batang PBA summer program visits the office of Burlington GM Ruddy Tan after a plant tour of the Burlington factory in Makati City recently.

O'Hara, Jones to miss next three rounds of AF3 series

IRISHMAN JOHN O'HARA AND AUSTRALIAN Christian Jones will miss the next three rounds of the Asian Formula Three, leaving Filipino stars Tyson Sy and Dado Peña as the drivers to watch when the series goes to China next week.

O'HARA

The field, however, will not be wanting in foreign talent, with three new drivers from Finland, England and Macau out to test the resolve of Tyson and Peña at the 4.3-kilometer Zhuhai International Circuit in Guangdong.

O'Hara, the first runner-up last year, has given up his slot at Aran Racing to Indon Moreno Soeprapto for the rest of the season while Jones, last year's champion, has opted to concentrate on the A1 circuit.

Their absence, however, is not expected to create a vacuum, with Sy and Peña fast stepping up to prove Filipino drivers have what it takes against foreign competition.

"We expect Tyson and Dado to dominate the China races, based on the results of the first three rounds in Batangas," said AF3 Corp. chair Ed Peña. "They've proven they are the fastest in Batangas and we expect them to do the same in Zhuhai."

As of yesterday, Peña said at least 14 drivers are set to start on the grid on June 17 and 18, among them Henri Karjalainen of Finland, Matt Shawyer of England and Lou Meng Cheong of Macau. Karjalainen will drive for Speedtech Asia, taking the place of Soeprapto, Cheong will drive for Team Goddard in the promotions class.

Sy swept the first three races at the Batangas Racing Circuit and leads the crowded leader board with 60 points. Peña is running fifth with 22 points. Sy and Peña will leave for Zhuhai next Tuesday to test their cars, with the latter having the luxury of testing Dallara 304 and 301 models before deciding which car to race.

Lady driver Michelle Bumgarner will not compete due to a previous karting commitment in Italy while Gaby dela Merced is a possible competitor, according to Ed Peña. Pepon Marave of Shell Helix Kinetic PCSO will also race.

Enduro San Mig Light today

THE ENDURO SAN MIG LIGHT ADVENTURE Series 200 stretches its borders when it holds its first leg in Mindanao today.

Davao City hosts the series' second leg, a fitting follow-up to the triumphant run in Cebu City on May 27.

"This race is going to be very exciting and challenging most especially for the first timers in Davao," race director Neyney Guevarra said. "This one will be full of surprises and the trek is more taxing."

The Novice race, a 4-6 hour challenge, gathers hard core racers, outdoor enthusiasts, weekend warriors, yuppies, students and media and television personalities under one category.

San Mig Light, which for years has supported extreme sports, is inviting race enthusiasts and sports aficionados to be part of this annual event.

Other sponsors are the NS Royal, Converse and Habagat, and Cebu nightspots Cue Cafe, UH, Patio Escilla, Pump, Yo Latino, Kasadja, Ratsky, Vudu, Formo and Kahayag Cafe.

The champion will get P15,000 while the second placer will receive P10,000 plus San Mig Light premium items. Call the Enduro hotline at (632) 414-1489 or log on to www.sanmiglight.com.ph for details.

Speedo novice swim meet

MORE THAN 300 SWIMMERS WILL BE splashing their way in the Speedo Swim for a Cause Novice Swimming Championships today at the Philippine Columbian Association, Plaza Dilao, Paco Manila. The event is organized by the Bert Lozada Swim School and presented by Speedo, Powerbar, Mommy Academy, Toy Town, Caltex, Mossimo and the Philippine Daily Inquirer. It is open to all swimmers who have not competed in any inter-club, inter-school, inter-region swimming competition or any competition composed of two or more teams. A portion of the entry fee will be donated to the World Swim for Malaria Foundation. For details call 589-1982, 563-5532, 0917-700-SWIM (7946). To download details and entry forms please visit the website at www.swim4cause.orgfree.com.

Michele eyes faster times in Asian Karting

CARMONA, CAVITE--THE PHILIPpines' Michele Bumgarner posted a fast time during the practice session yesterday of the second leg of the 2006 Asian Karting Open Championship which kicks off today at the Carmona Circuit Philippines.

The reigning Asian Queen posted a time of 44.741 seconds while trying to break-in her kart. Bumgarner expects her time to improve by two seconds after adjustments have been made on their setup in time for the race proper.

Last year, Michele posted the new record time of 42.34 which she achieved using tires that already raced 40 laps. She swept the three heats and Sunday morning's pre-final race. But in the final race, she made a costly lapse of using rain tires even as the track was fast drying.

With Bumgarner out of the running, Matteo Guidicelli took charge and saved the day for the Philippines by bagging the Rotax Max Seniors and the premiere Intercon-A class.

BUMGARNER

Kuznetsova, Henin-Hardenne set title clash

KUZNETSOVA AFP

HARDENNE AFP

PARIS—SHE'D COME SO FAR, SO FAST, reaching her first Grand Slam semifinal at 17, that perhaps Nicole Vaidisova just wasn't quite ready to win it.

Closing in on a third consecutive upset at Roland Garros, Vaidisova served for the match against 2004 US Open champion Svetlana Kuznetsova, and later was two points from victory in the second-set tiebreaker. Each time, the Czech teen's composure cracked, allowing Kuznetsova to come back to win, 5-7, 7-6 (5), 6-2, on Thursday and reach the French Open final.

Kuznetsova faces Justine Henin-Hardenne, the two-time French Open champion who earned another berth in the final by taking advantage of Belgian compatriot Kim Clijsters' erratic play to win, 6-3, 6-2, Thursday.

"I have a lot of ambition," said Henin-Hardenne, the Roland Garros champion in 2003 and 2005. "Beating Kim is special, but I must not relax. I can win a third French Open, and that means a lot."

It would be tough to blame Vaidisova for thinking ahead when it was her turn to serve while leading 5-4 in the second set. A little more than 1½ hours in, and all she needed was four points to put it away.

"You kind of figure, 'If I win this game, I'm in the finals,'" Vaidisova acknowledged. "But I don't think I (was) crazy nervous or started shaking or anything. I really didn't.

"I just have to take my experience from this and, you know, figure it out next time."

That, in a nutshell, is what Kuznetsova did. The Russian let match points slip away at the French Open each of the past two years, losing to the eventual champion in the fourth round: Anastasia Myskina in 2004, and Justine Henin-Hardenne in 2005.

Vaidisova "got a little bit nervous. I know how it feels because I've been there, in her position, so many times," said Kuznetsova, a comparative veteran at 20 who's worked with a psychologist to avoid such pitfalls.

Vaidisova belted 42 winners in the first two sets—16 more than Kuznetsova had the entire match—and showed why many consider her an emerging star.

Vaidisova, who knocked off former No. 1 Venus Williams and current No. 1 Amelie Mauresmo, has been compared to Maria Sharapova because of their age, their work with tennis guru Nick Bollettieri in Florida, their flat strokes, and the endorsement opportunities that have come their way. If Vaidisova's going to join Sharapova as a Grand Slam title winner, it'll have to be another time. *AP*

La Salle lady footballers test Irok FC

DEFENDING WOMEN'S CHAMPION DE LA Salle University tests the mettle of Irok Football Club in one of the featured matches today in the 2006 Adidas Futsal Championship at the F-MAC Gym in La Salle Greenhills, Mandaluyong City.

The Lady Archers and the Irok booters clash at 4 p.m., right after the men's second division match between the Archers and El Magistrado FC set at 3 p.m.

The Marines, one of the newcomers in Group A of the men's second division, and Xavier Alumni FC start hostilities at 2 p.m.

In other matches, the University of Asia & the Pacific guns for its first win against Vintage FC at 4 p.m. The UA & P Dragons rallied to a 2-2 draw against Miriam College in the opener.

At 5 p.m., Superfriends and Kaya FC make their debut against each other, while capping the day at 7 p.m. will be the contest between Pasargad, which lost to Philippine Army, 4-6, in the opener, and another Division I top pick Philippine Navy, which will also play its first assignment in the tournament sponsored by Adidas and sanctioned by the National Capital Region Football Association (NCRFA).

Castrale seizes LPGA lead

HAVRE DE GRACE, MARYLAND—NICOLE CASTRALE seized the first round lead at the McDonald's LPGA Championship here Thursday and stole the spotlight from Annika Sorenstam and Michelle Wie. Castrale's career-best round—a flawless eight-under 64—made her the surprise leader after one round of $1.8 million, the second major championship of the women's season. She had a two-shot lead over Pat Hurst and Cristie Kerr. It was another stroke back to Christina Kim, South Korean Seon Hwa Lee and Fil-Am Dorothy Delasin. Meanwhile three-time defending champion Sorenstam and prodigy Wie were well back after first-round 71s. *AFP*

Terry steps into Nowitzki's role

Mavericks go 1-0 up vs Heat in Finals

DALLAS—WHEN DIRK Nowitzki struggles, so do the Dallas Mavericks—usually.

Game 1 of the NBA finals was a good time to make an exception.

The German-born forward made only four of 14 shots Thursday and scored 16 points, his second-fewest of the postseason, and was shut out in the fourth quarter.

"You didn't see the real Dirk tonight," coach Avery Johnson said.

Luckily for Dallas, a big game from Jason Terry and some terrific defense helped the Mavericks beat the Miami Heat, 90-80.

"It's a team game," said Nowitzki, who was an active part of a defensive effort that held the Heat to 12 points in the fourth quarter. "We win as a team and play defense as a team."

Josh Howard's offense was pretty much a no-show, too: The versatile forward shot 3-of-14 for 10 points. For Dallas to win without either of its top two scorers having a good night certainly bodes well for their title chances.

"We know guys are going to go through stretches when the ball doesn't fall in," teammate Jerry Stackhouse said. "But they did other things. They competed on the defensive end; both of them had double-figure rebounds."

The Mavs even endured seven straight misses between fourth-quarter baskets—a drought of six minutes and 53 seconds—yet their defense was so good in that stretch that their lead only shrunk by one point. Stackhouse had the rut-busting basket with 1:02 left, then got to soak up the cheers as he dribbled out most of the last half-minute.

Celebration

When time ran out, Nowitzki patted Howard on the back, then put his arms up in celebration. It was only the third time in 13 postseason wins that he wasn't Dallas' leading scorer; it hadn't happened since Terry scored 32 in Game 4 of the second round series against San Antonio—six wins ago. Terry had 32 again this time.

"They made me put ball on floor and got ball out of my hands," Nowitzki said. "But we played well defensively and Jason made shots and carried us all game."

Nowitzki had 10 rebounds, three steals and four assists.

His scoring tone was set when he missed consecutive shots early in the first quarter, including six of his first seven and an air ball on a 3-pointer. That would've been his line for the first half except for a 22-footer he nailed as the second quarter ended.

"I still had some good looks, but I never really found my rhythm," said Nowitzki, who came in averaging 28.4 points this postseason and was two games removed from a 50-point effort against Phoenix.

Despite teammates feeding him the ball—"We wanted Dirk to get going a little bit to see how he was feeling," Terry said—the closest he came to a surge came midway through the third quarter.

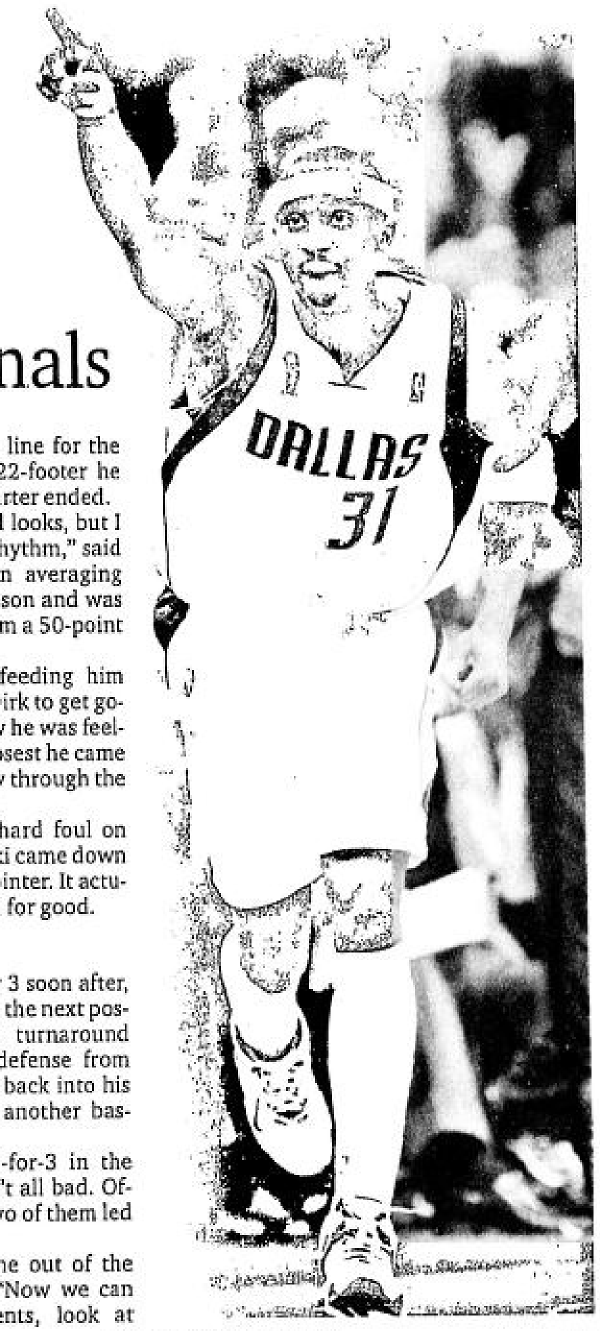
After committing a hard foul on Dwyane Wade, Nowitzki came down and hit a go-ahead 3-pointer. It actually put the Mavs ahead for good.

Funk

Nowitzki hit another 3 soon after, then had a steal. But on the next possession, he missed a turnaround jumper against tight defense from James Posey and went back into his funk, failing to make another basket.

Although he was 0-for-3 in the fourth quarter, it wasn't all bad. Offensive rebounds off two of them led to points.

"We got the first one out of the way," Nowitzki said. "Now we can make some adjustments, look at some film." *AP*



TERRY: Top scorer AFP

Tejada slowly recovering

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

CONTRARY TO EXPECTATIONS, THE Fiba ban on the Philippines was not lifted during the Fiba-Asia Congress and elections held in Kuwait this week.

However, BAP president Joey Lina who attended the event, has assured us that it's all a matter of time.

Two months, more or less.

According to Joey, a resolution he has submitted to Fiba-Asia seeking the lifting of the RP ban has been unanimously approved and signed by the 44-member nations of Asia.

This development alone is a breakthrough, said the former senator.

The signed resolution will next be tackled by the Fiba Central Board which convenes this August in Saitama, Japan, where the World Basketball Championships will be staged. The Central Board will make the final decision.

***

I understand that before Joey left for Kuwait, the BAP board met to map out plans, should the ban be lifted.

From what I gathered, the board was inclined to rescind the Memorandum of Agreement forged with the PBA some years back, on the grounds that the league has affiliated itself with Pilipinas Basketball, an association formed to replace the BAP which continues to be recognized by the Fiba.

The lifting of the ban will enable the BAP to send a team to compete in Fiba-sanctioned tournaments like the Fiba-Asia Championship (formerly ABC), the Fiba-Asia Club Championship and the Seaba.

***

Newly elected Asaphil president Mario Raymundo, former Pasig Mayor who held the same sports position some years back, was one of the featured guests when I attended a SCOOP sa Kamayan session some weeks ago.

But since I arrived late for the forum, I couldn't clearly make out the exact issue or issues plaguing Mario and the Asaphil.

The way I understood it, Mario was urged by the Asaphil board to run for president in an election which was legit and would be held according to schedule.

Before he gave his nod to the board however, Mario said he met with POC president Peping Cojuangco to seek his blessing, which he got. Mario said Peping event sent POC official Rene Rebano to observe the conduct of elections.

But soon after he was installed as the successor to Harry AngPing, Mario was surprised to hear that the POC board of arbitration had declared the Asaphil election null and void.

Now the POC wants to hold another election, urging Mario to peacefully step aside to give way to Jean Henri Lhullier, godfather of the men and women's softball teams in last year's SEA Games.

Standing his ground, Mario flatly refused, vowing that he will fight all the way. He was still as enraged when I talked with him over the phone the other day. He said he is declaring war.

Mario's story sounds very familiar, doesn't it?

***

After weeks of silence, we finally got an update on the condition of Purefoods cager Eugene Tejada whose family has restricted the influx of visitors to the hospital.

According to PFC governor Rene Pardo, Eugene has been experiencing involuntary movements in his legs which, according to the doctors, is a good sign.

***Mang* Pards said Eugene might undergo rehab therapy in the United States so he could be near his family.**

This is to avoid or at least alleviate depression which usually afflicts patients going through a lengthy convalescence.

***

Allan Caidic's biographical book titled "My Life Allan Caidic The Triggerman" will be launched on June 15, his birthday, at the National Bookstore at the Shangri-La Mall in Mandaluyong.

Three other special launches have been scheduled for fans at the SM Fairview on June 23, SM Manila on June 24 and SM Megamall on June 25. Allan will be there to autograph the books.

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SPORTS

Toyota Otis eyes 2-0 lead

By Jasmine W. Payo

FOR COACH LOUIE ALAS, THERE WAS NO TIME TO CELEBRATE Toyota Otis' victory.

Minutes after claiming the Finals opener, Alas was already anticipating the Harbour Centre stars to come out strong in Game 2 of the PBL Unity Cup championship series.

"(Joseph) Yeo and (LA) Tenorio didn't play their usual game, we have to prepare for the two," he noted. "They'll be motivated. We know they can really play well, they're both pro-bound."

But the Sparks have their own formidable cast when they shoot for an imposing 2-0 lead versus the Portmasters in their best-of-five title round at 3 p.m. today at the Olivarez Sports Center in Parañaque.

Fil-Am Joe Devance, favored to win the Most Valuable Player plum in the 2 p.m. Achievement Awards, failed to log in his usual numbers due to early foul troubles in Game 1.

Yet the Sparks got plenty of support from Aaron Aban and Christian Coronel in the second half.

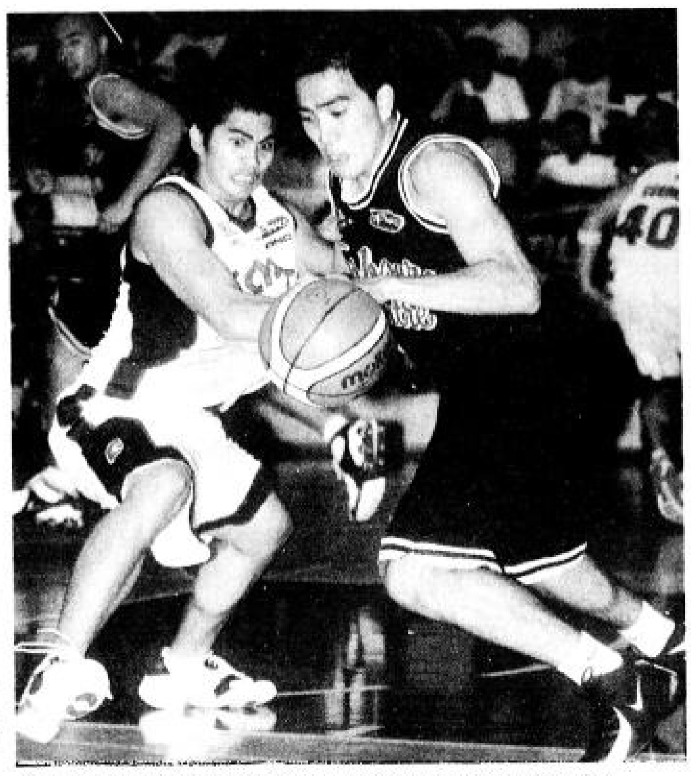
Alas admitted he liked what he saw in the Sparks' convincing 68-51 victory in the series opener last Thursday.

"That's the discipline we have to maintain," he said. "We have to stay focused all the time. Our mission is not over."

In contrast, the Portmasters' offensive game was nowhere to be found. With Yeo and Tenorio typifying the team's struggles, the young crew shot a horrendous 26 percent on the floor and made only 14 of 30 attempts at the free throw line.

"It was embarrassing," said Portmasters coach Jorge Gallent. "But I'm confident the boys can bounce back. I have great trust in my players."

GAMES TODAY *(Olivarez Sports Center)*
2 p.m.—Achievement Awards
3 p.m.—Harbour Centre vs Toyota Otis (Game 2-Finals)



RYAN Araña of Harbour Centre tries to dribble past the gritty defense of Toyota Otis' JP Alcaraz. ERIK ARAZAS

Franz keeps post as Archers coach

By Jasmine W. Payo

PUTTING THE NIGHTMARISH CAGE scandal behind, De La Salle University decided to go back to the old and the familiar.

Franz Pumaren was reappointed as head coach of the men's basketball team as the Green Archers begin their rebuilding process while the university serves its one-year suspension from the UAAP.

"The administration reinstated coach Pumaren last week," La Salle sports development head Br. Bobby Casingal said yesterday.

"There was a search committee, it started last February. We submitted names (of candidates)."

Pumaren, who resigned at the height of the UAAP eligibility scandal last November, already met with the players last week. Official practice will start on Wednesday.

"I told them what will happen with regards to the suspension," said Pumaren. "It has its downside and upside. But in the long run, it will benefit them. We'll be able to concentrate on their individual skills and training."

Casingal said La Salle is still finalizing its sports calendar after the UAAP slapped a one-year suspension on the university in all league events for fielding two ineligible basketball players.

Pumaren noted the team already received invitations to play in international tourneys, including Indonesia, China, Australia and Taiwan.

"We want to keep the boys busy," said Pumaren, who steered the Archers to five championships in the last eight years.

"We're reviewing the tournaments we'll join, whether local or international. We're assessing the invitations from different countries, the ones that will not affect their classes."

Still keeping the same staff, Pumaren will be assisted by Tonichi Yturri, Tyrone Bautista, Jack Santiago and Dan Rose in the final two years of his contract.

Larios steps up training for Pacquaio fight

OSCAR LARIOS OF MEXICO, WHO FIGHTS Filipino boxing icon Manny Pacquiao on July 2 at the Araneta Coliseum, yesterday stepped up his training at Tokyo's Teiken gym and appeared in good shape although a bit overweight for their stipulated 130-pound fight for the World Boxing Council international super-featherweight crown.

Since arriving from Mexico a week ago, Larios has already sparred with 122-pounder Toshiaki Nishioka and WBC bantam champion Hozumi Hasegawa, a southpaw like Pacman, for four rounds each.

The 29-year-old Larios will be the fifth straight Mexican fighter to fight Pacman, who's tagged as the 'annihilator' of Mexican warriors, including legends Erik Morales and Marco Antonio Barrera. *Salven Lagumbay*

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SATURDAY Special

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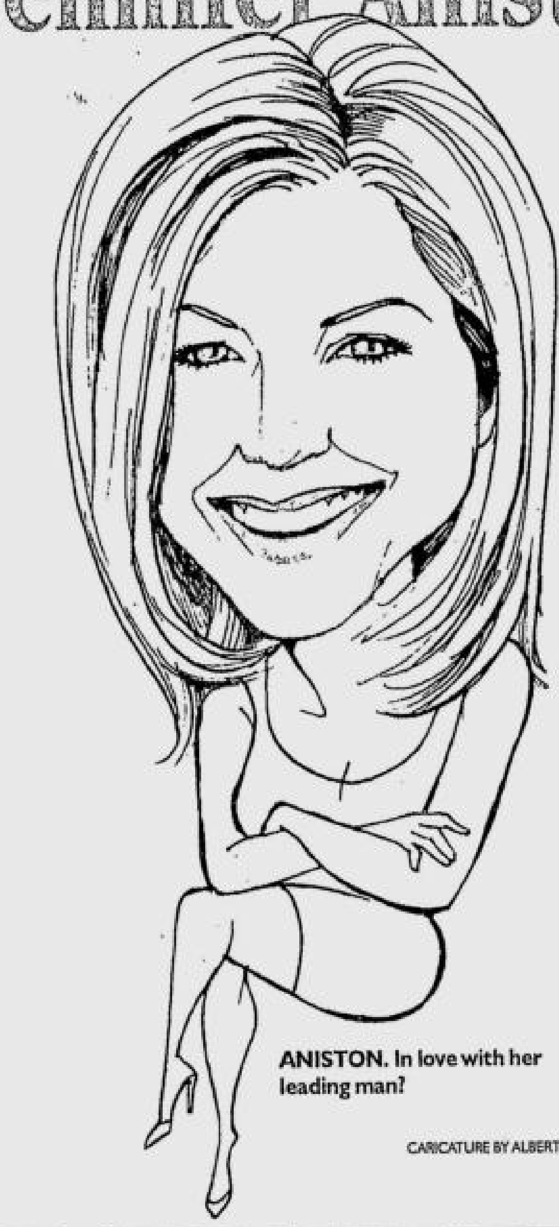
Jennifer Aniston becomes a bankable film star



ANISTON. In love with her leading man?

CARICATURE BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

By Nestor U. Torre

WHEN BRAD Pitt left his wife Jennifer Aniston for Angelina Jolie, movie fans felt sad for Jennifer and hoped that she would quickly recover from the break-up.

Jennifer was eventually able to come to terms with what happened to her on a personal level, but her career was something else again.

From her hit sitcom, "Friends," she moved over to the movies, but her first few starrers failed to arouse the viewing public's curiosity and enthusiasm. Was Jennifer fated to fail as a film star?

New lease on life

Last week, her movie career got a new lease on life when her latest starrer, "The Break-up," grossed a strong $38 million on its opening weekend, and ended up on top of the US box office.

Even better, it trounced some very impressive titles—"X-Men: The Last Stand" was a very big hit on its first weekend, but didn't do as well as "The Break-up" on its second, so Jennifer's starrer can be described as a "giant-killer."

In third place was the popular animated feature, "Over the Hedge," and another blockbuster, "The Da Vinci Code," was fourth—a huge drop after its stunning first weekend gross.

Dream

By virtue of the very good showing of "The Break-up" at the box office, Jennifer has finally achieved her dream of becoming a bankable film star!

The question is, why did "The Break-up" break the bank, while her previous film starrers failed to fly in the estimation of movie fans?

There's no denying that the movie's title intrigued viewers because of its reference to Jennifer's real-life trauma at the hands of her faithless husband and his intoxicatingly beautiful co-star in "Mr. and Mrs. Smith."

They wondered: Would the plot of her new film play itself out in a way similar to the actress' own marital break-up?

Another positive factor presented itself when rumors spread that Jennifer and her leading man, Vince Vaughn, were making

JENNIFER/ A2-4

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Lipa & Batangas

Box office doesn't reflect summer of bad flicks

HANKS. His latest starrer, "The Da Vinci Code," has racked up $410 million outside the US.

LOS ANGELES—THINK LAST summer's slate of poorly-reviewed Hollywood movies helped lead to the slump at the box office? Think again.

So far, Hollywood's Summer 2006 movies have been mostly panned by critics. Yet, the box office is higher than at the same point last year, reversing last summer's slump.

"When it comes to summer blockbusters, most of those movies depend on marketing and, quite frankly, the hype more than the reviews," said Paul Dergarabedian, president of box-office tracker Exhibitor Relations.

More attention

Dergarabedian cited a long-held truth in Hollywood: That the core audience for big-budget summer movies—mostly teenage and college-age youth—pays more attention to promotion and advertising than to critics.

Take a look at the reviews for "The Break-up," which starred Jennifer Aniston and Vince Vaughn as a couple who separate from each other but can't give up their condo:

"Doesn't know when to call it quits," wrote the Dallas Morning News. "Isn't much fun," said the Washington Post.

The critical word on "The Da Vinci Code" was worse. Newsweek said it was "both overstuffed and underwhelming." The action flick, "X-Men: The Last Stand," did marginally better, but like the others, it defied critics at the box office.

"X-Men" is a huge hit with more than $175 million at the domestic box office and "The Da Vinci Code" is a hair behind at $172 million. Overseas, it has racked up another $410 million.

Experts cite many reasons for the disconnect—including that older and less-frequent moviegoers read reviews. Kids do not.

Younger audiences hear about a film through friends. Increasingly, the Internet has been a key arena for reaching kids.

Reviews

But, take heart, movie critics, you still matter. Good reviews are a must for low-budget films and those competing for awards. That was true for the 2005 race-relations drama, "Crash." It played in theaters last summer and earned strong reviews. It sold only $54 million worth of tickets at the domestic box office, but won the best film Oscar.

"There is definitely a place for reviews—and there always will be," said Dergarabedian.
Reuters

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TEN FUN-TASTIC YEARS!

Notable flicks in moviegoing marathon

By Rito P. Asilo

IF THERE'S ONE THING WE LOVE more than the legitimate stage, it's the cinema and its ability to transport moviegoers to exotic worlds and parallel realities. The film medium can also explore man's vast experiences as he struggles to survive in his complex society.

Our recent theatrical stint in Singapore allowed us to indulge in our favorite pastime: Watching movies—and great ones, at that. After a tiring performance, we would "decompress" by catching late-night (and early morning) screenings at the newly-opened Cathay cineplex— some of them even started at 2 a.m.! Here are just four of the films we caught during that dizzying, exhilarating moviegoing frenzy:

RENIER. Topbills the Dardenne brothers' morality tale.

Complicated

Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne's **"The Child (L'Enfant),"** winner of the top Golden Palm award at last year's Cannes, is a compelling morality tale about a couple, Bruno and Sonia (Jeremie Renier and Deborah Francois, respectively), who lives off the latter's social-security benefits and from thefts the former commits with his gang. Their world gets more complicated when she gives birth to their baby—whom, without Sonia's approval, Bruno sells for money!

ZHANG. Plays three characters in "Jasmine Women."

"Jasmine Women" tells the story of three generations of women—all portrayed by Ziyi Zhang—from 1930s Shanghai to the '70s, as they love, lose and overcome difficulties.

Often too sappy for its own good, the film boasts of fine performances from the luminous Chinese ingénue, a thespic high-wire act she accomplishes with passion and fervor.

But, it's co-star Joan Chen who steals scenes everytime she appears on the screen. The movie, though, won Zhang the Golden Rooster award for best actress, and copped the Special Jury prize at the Shanghai International Film Festival in 2004.

Pen-Ek Ratanaruang's sexy, moody and eerily atmospheric **"Invisible Waves,"** which opened this year's Bangkok International Film Festival before it made a splash in Berlin, may have flaws in its narrative, but it nevertheless engages due to the director's visual sense and storytelling savvy.

It also features the charismatic Tadanobu Asano as Kyoji, a man who flees Macau after he kills his girlfriend—who happens to be his boss' wife! As he copes with guilt, he also tries to elude his enemies.

ASANO. Shines again in his latest team-up with Ratanaruang.

Screen partnership

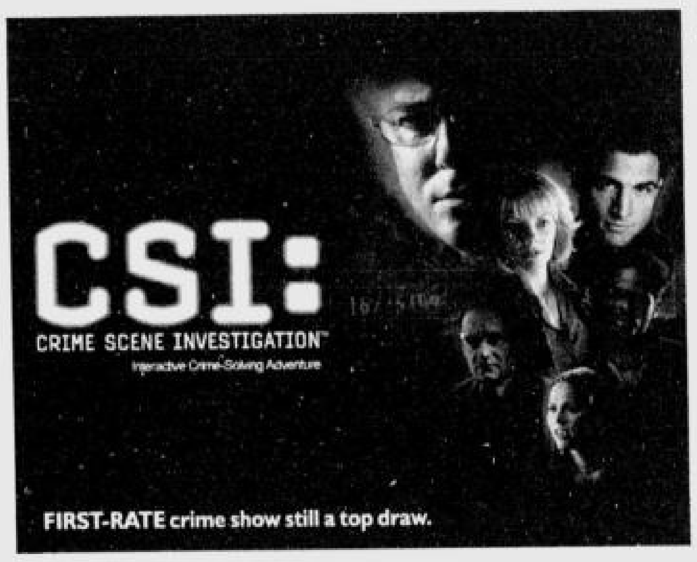
Ratanaruang's current film with Asano proves that their award-winning screen partnership in 2003's "Last Life in the Universe" (which won for Asano the 2003 Venice best actor prize) was no fluke.

Hany Abu-Assad's **"Paradise Now"** has collected countless awards and citations—from the coveted Golden Globes to the Oscars—and justifiably so. The compelling Palestinian feature tells the story of two friends, Said and Khaled (Kais Nashef and Ali Suliman, respectively), who must leave their families to make the ultimate sacrifice: To fulfill their mission as suicide bombers for the Islamic extremist group they belong to! But, when something goes wrong, each man is confronted by his true feelings about the ideology he is sworn to live by—and die for.

CBS lineup goes for star power, stability

LOS ANGELES/NEW YORK —CBS, riding high in the ratings with few holes to patch in its primetime schedule, said recently it plans to launch four new series in the fall, and has recruited James Woods, Virginia Madsen and Ray Liotta to star in two of them.

With a slate of new shows consisting of three dramas and one comedy, CBS Corp. took the wraps off a 2006-2007 programming grid with far fewer changes than those announced earlier by NBC and ABC.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FIRST-RATE crime show still a top draw.

Environment

"We're taking some swings. But, we're taking them in an environment of health," chief executive Leslie Moonves told reporters.

Hoping to book a bigger share of advance commercial sales for the upcoming season than its rivals will, CBS touted the relative stability and consistency of its fall slate.

"We are the most stable network," Moonves said. "Nothing the competition did surprised us." In all, CBS is returning 18 shows from its 2005-2006 primetime lineup, including six from last year's freshman class.

CBS is the third network this week to showcase its new lineup at the annual "upfront" presentations, when the top US networks introduce their new prime-time shows and begin negotiations with advertisers to sell in advance about 70 percent to 80 percent of the season's commercial time.

With its powerhouse "CSI" franchise and such hits as "Two and a Half Men," "Survivor" and "Without a Trace," CBS is poised to finish the current season at No. 1 again in terms of total viewers.

Advertisers

But, the network is set to slip from second place to third—behind Fox and ABC—in the race for viewers aged 18 to 49, the group most prized by advertisers.

Fox will present its primetime programming this week. Media buyers expect advertisers' spending at this year's upfront to be flat to slightly lower than the $9.1 billion booked a year ago, partly because of competition from alternative media, such as the Internet, for marketing dollars.

For the comparatively smaller crop of new series from CBS, the emphasis was on big names and big ideas. Two of the three new dramas CBS is picking up feature well-known movie actors in sharply drawn, character-driven stories.

Madsen, an Academy Award nominee for her supporting role in "Sideways," will team up with Liotta ("Goodfellas") for the new crime drama, "Smith," while Woods, a two-time Oscar nominee—"Ghosts of Mississippi," "Salvador"—will star as a Los Angeles celebrity lawyer turned prosecutor in "Shark."

The third drama, the post-nuclear disaster saga, "Jericho," has the least-known actor (Skeet Ulrich) but perhaps, the network's highest concept for the coming season.

CBS is also renewing its new gung-ho commando drama, "The Unit," starring Dennis Haysbert, as well as its freshman legal drama, "Close to Home."

On the comedy front, Julia Louis-Dreyfus appears to have finally broken the "Seinfeld" curse, as CBS renewed her latest show, "The New Adventures of Old Christine," for a second season. She stars as a divorced mom looking for love.

Self-absorbed

Louis-Dreyfus, who played self-absorbed Elaine Benes for nine years on NBC's smash hit comedy, "Seinfeld," is the third cohort from the "show about nothing" to try going it alone in primetime TV. Solo attempts by her former "Seinfeld" pals, Michael Richards and Jason Alexander, fizzled quickly.

As for new comedies, CBS picked up the ensemble sitcom, "The Class," with Jason Ritter, whose father, late TV veteran John Ritter, starred on "Three's Company" and "8 Simple Rules ... for Dating My Teenage Daughter." *Reuters*

Dante Basco is proud to be Pinoy

By Remy M. Umerez

FIL-AM ACTOR DANTE BASCO was recently in town to promote "Take the Lead," his current movie with Antonio Banderas. In the past, Dante also appeared in Steven Spielberg's "Hook" and in the indie, Gene Cajayon's "The Debut," with Eddie Garcia, Gina Alajar and Tirso Cruz III.

BASCO. No Inhibitions.

Biggest role

Dante was a breakdancer before he got into acting. That talent earned him his biggest role to date. In "Take the Lead," he plays the role of Miguel Ramos, a street-wise student who's into hip-hop dancing.

Basco is proud of his Filipino blood—both his parents are from Zambales and migrated to the United States even before he was born. He shares, "I grew up dancing, singing, rapping and taking piano lessons.

"I have no inhibitions when it comes to dancing—and my partner is usually my mom. We do the cha-cha, then add a bit of hip-hop to it!"

Dante describes Banderas as an "actor's actor"—a warm person who keeps the morale of the cast high. Basco was supposed to play a Puerto Rican, but he was able to convince the producers to make his character a Filipino.

Advice

What advice would Dante give to aspiring Filipinos who want to conquer Hollywood? "Go for it, but be aware of the ups and downs along the way. Be disciplined, study hard, and respect your craft," he intones.

Dante attended Orange County High School of the Arts in Southern California. Together with his brothers Dion, Darion and Derek, he is working on a demo tape that could land the siblings a record deal with a major US label.

Creative marketing and promotions for Filipino films

By Ramon E. Bayron

DURING THE "TWO-DAY FILM School," a crash course that focused more on the business and less on the art of filmmaking, conducted by Dov S-S Simens of the Hollywood Film Institute, he repeatedly stressed a point: Aside from the usual excuses given to explain the box-office failure of most movies, one that is generally overlooked is the promotions and marketing aspect of the business.

Observation

The present state of local film industry validates this observation. Director Marilou Diaz-Abaya once said, "The Filipino movie industry is dying because of the dearth in film concepts or ideas."

The same can be said about the lack of creative and effective campaigns for Filipino films, which oftentimes spell the difference between box-office victory and defeat.

This is a costly oversight for many film producers—a major misstep that has forced a number of established studios to take an unwanted "sabbatical" from film production—or to close shop.

While much creative effort goes into pre-production, production and post-production, the same level of creativity and effort is sorely missing come "promo" time.

It's baffling, to say the least, that the box-office fate of a multimillion-peso product *cum* investment should be left to a "publicity and promotions scheme" that utilizes clichés: creates *"tsismis"* (gossip), the more scandalous, the better; and uses the trite "this-film-is-expensive-and-*pang*-award-thus-you-should-see-it" line, or the tasteless "this-film-is-a-graphic-sex-movie-almost-banned-by-the-censors" slant.

ABAYA. More innovative film concepts needed.

Indie movement

With the indie movement going up in terms of productivity, the brave souls who make digital movies deserve admiration and support for their willingness to invest "life and limb" in pursuit of their creative ideals.

That said, encouragement should come with caution if the end goal is sustainablity of the artistic exercise.

Unlike other commodities in the market, a movie is always a new product, and not one is exactly the same as the other. Therefore, the promotions and marketing campaign should be specifically tailored for each film by highlighting its strengths, "energizing" its weaknesses, and creating interest in the production.

MONTAGE

Weddings in Mr. & Ms.

FANS OF CELEBRITY NEWLYweds Raymart Santiago and Claudine Barretto can read the couple's complete and unique wedding vows in the June issue of Mr. & Ms. magazine, where Mr. and Mrs. Santiago grace the cover.

Other articles on weddings and everything bridal include a piece on Vedic weddings and tips for a happy marriage, the Muslim way; "Reinventing Weddings and Marriages," and soul mates.

The June issue also honors fathers, among them celebrity dad, Bong Revilla. Other features are on reincarnation, the healing power of prayer, "The Da Vinci Code" and the Bible, global warming, the environment, the new Superman, and gays and lesbians on the Cha-Cha.

Movies on TV

On HBO, June 10 at 8:15 a.m., "Postcards from the Edge." 1:30 p.m., "The American President." June 11 at 10 a.m., "The River Wild." June 12 at 9 p.m., "Troy." June 13 at 7:15 p.m., "Back to the Future, 2." 9 p.m., "Carnivale 13: Los Moscos." 9:50 p.m., "Carnivale 14: Alamogordo, N.M." 10:45 p.m., "Ray."

On Cinemax, June 10 at 5 p.m., "Nowhere to Run." June 11 at 11 a.m., "Cape Fear." 4:20 p.m., "It Could Happen to You." 10:40 p.m., "Lone Star." June 12 at 1:25 p.m., "From Here to Eternity." 11:05 p.m., "Guarding Tess." June 13 at 2:25 p.m., "Shane." 9:45 p.m., "Intolerable Cruelty."

French Film Festival

Ongoing until June 19 at Shangri-La Plaza is the 2006 French Film Festival, featuring seven acclaimed contemporary movies and two classics from the 1940s.

Films on view are Anne Villaceque's "Riviera," Bruno Podalydes' "La Parfum de la Dame en Noire," Alexandra Leciere's "Les Soeurs Fachees," Jean Beaudin's "Nouvelle France," Olivier Assayas' "Clean," Aldellatif Kechiche's "L'esquive," Bertrand Tavernier's "Laissez-Passer," Henri-Georges Clouzot's "Le Corbeau" and Marcel Carne's "Les Enfante du Paradis." Call 633-2227and 633-7851 to 70.

'Bakit Hindi'

Session Road's new album, "Bakit Hindi," has 14 pop-rock tracks full of catchy hooks and heartfelt lyrics.

And the band's newly repackaged album, "Suntok sa Buwan," comes with a bonus AVCD featuring acoustic versions of "Eager Angels" and "Cool Off," plus the new single, "Blanko," and some music videos and minus-ones.

Same Same

The popular Same Same pop duo is currently in Manila to promote its debut album, "The Meaning of Happy." Aside from writing their own songs, Same Same also co-produced the album, which features the catchy tracks, "Supermodel," "Stay," "Tell Me," "City Lights," "It Can't Get Any Worse" and "Strange Lover."

SAME SAME. In town to promote debut album.

Same Same performs at 7 p.m. on June 10 at Fuente Circle, Eastwood City, and at 4 p.m. on June 11 at SM North Edsa.

Greenhills shopping mall

Starting yesterday until July 3, the 13th Telecommunications & Accessories Bazaar and the Second Philippine Crafts Fair will be held at the Greenhills shopping complex.

The refurbished and expanded mall has become a favorite shopping and relaxation destination for urbanites and celebrities alike.

Toy Run at Toy Kingdom

Nickelodeon is currently holding a cool promotion in celebration of its Kids' Choice Awards on July 8—Toy Run at Toy Kingdom. To join, until June 23, get flyer-stubs from Toy Kingdom branches in Metro Manila, and vote for your favorite *Pinoy* Wannabe for KCA 2006. Three lucky winners will be chosen, and they will go on a five-minute shopping spree for toys worth P120,000.

Animax

At 3:30 tomorrow, Animax telecasts "Curious Play Ova." Tamahome disappears suddenly, leaving a distraught Miaka to search for her love—a search that leads back into the world of Curious Play, where old enemies wait to exact revenge.

At 9 p.m., "Streamboy" tells the story of young genius James Ray Steam, who receives a mysterious package from his grandfather. It holds a metallic sphere called the Steam Ball, which generates enough energy to power an entire nation—but, it can also be used as a weapon to destroy the world!

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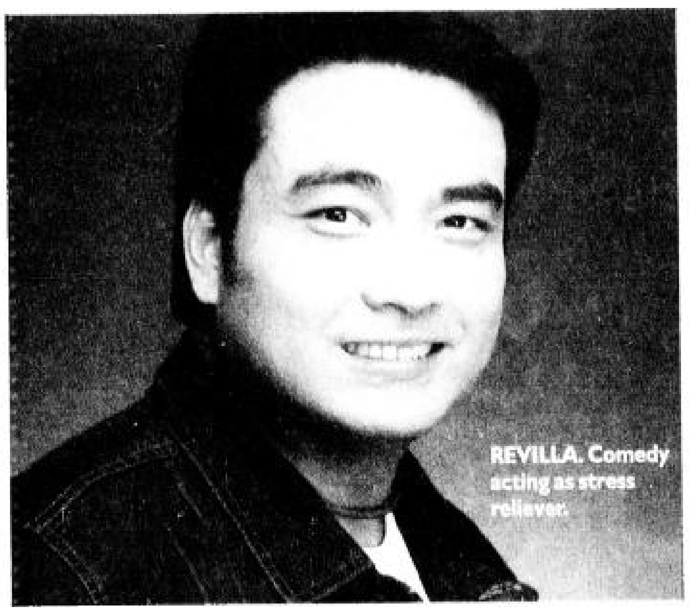
Revilla wants to bring back action movies' glory days



REVILLA. Comedy acting as stress reliever.

By Jocelyn Valle

ACTION MOVIES used to rule the box office. In fact— in the heyday of action films, most actors aspired to become action stars. A number of them succeeded by starring in biopics of celebrated men in uniform or notorious gangsters.

Then came the dawn of the VCD/DVD writers, and counterfeit copies of Hollywood flicks with huge explosions and complicated fight scenes flooded the market. There was no way local film outfits could match those big-budget productions. Moreover, they couldn't stop video pirates from peddling illegally-reproduced blockbuster films, so their numbers soon dwindled.

Politics

A handful of action stars took up the cudgels by producing their own starrers. But, many of them have turned to comedy—or politics—to stay in the limelight. "That's the reason why we included a big action scene in my latest movie, "Kapag Tumibok ang Puso," even if it's really a comedy," points out Bong Revilla.

He is referring to the *ala*-"Matrix" confrontation between his character and co-star Ai Ai delas Alas'.

He explains, "*Nagdagdag kami ng* action scene *para maisip ng mga tao na may* genre *na kailangan nating ibalik—kasi palaging* drama *at* comedy *ang nasa* market *ngayon*."

Revilla's dream project is to get his action-star friends, particularly the embattled Philip Salvador, to star in one big action movie.

Script

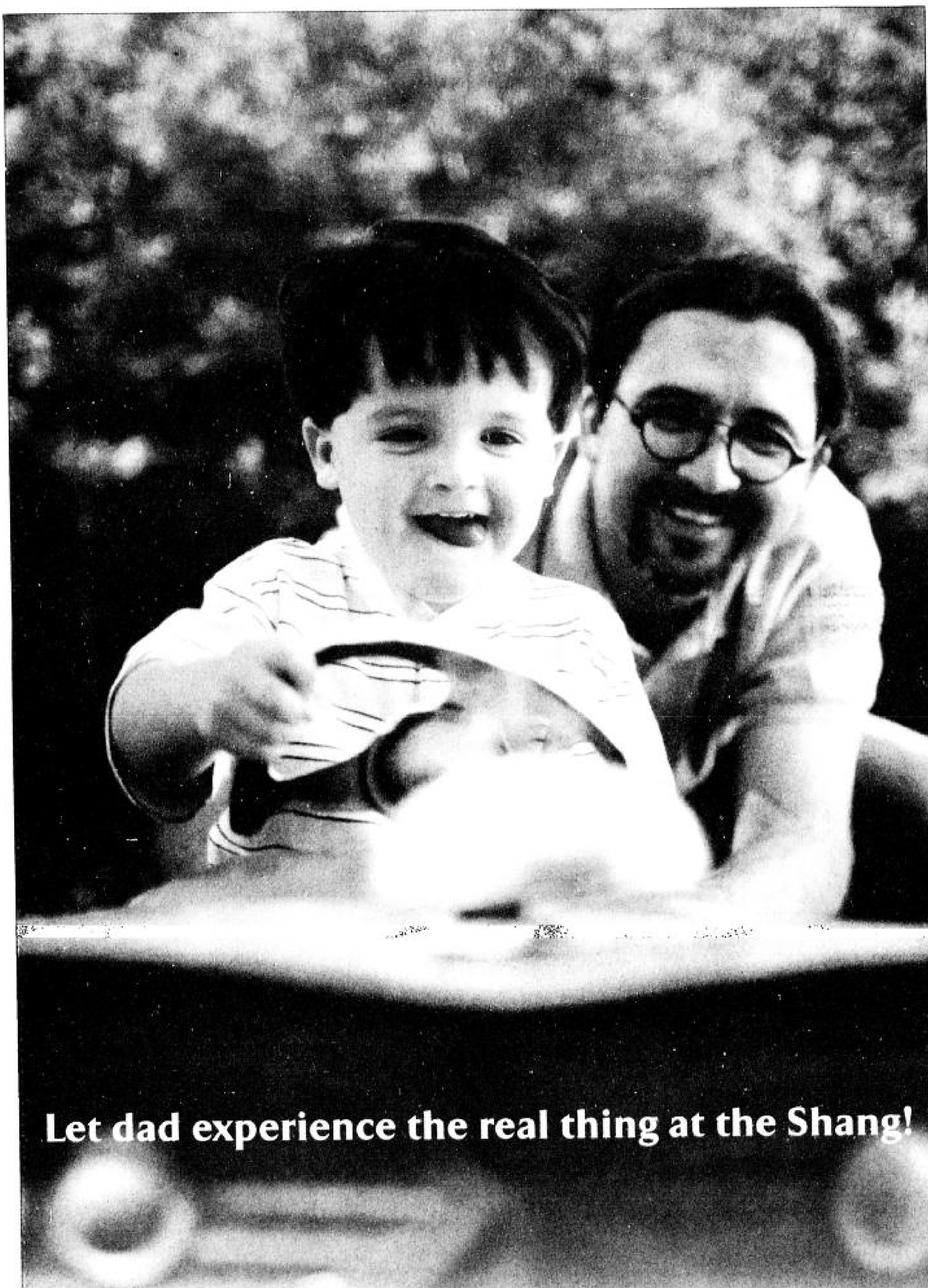
"*Hinihintay lang namin ang* script," he adds. "*Hindi kailangang malaki ang* production, *kasi sa* talent fee *pa lang ng mga artista, baka maubos na ang budget.*"

When wè ask him for his thoughts about Philip, who faces estafa charges filed by a former flame, Bong shakes his head: "*Ang masasabi ko lang, hindi namin siya pababayaan.*"

Stress reliever

Meanwhile, the actor-solon says he's having fun doing comedy. He grins, "It's a stress reliever. *Puro problema sa Senado*. So, '*pag nagte*-taping *ako ng* sitcom, or I'm shooting scenes for 'Kapag Tumibok ang Puso,' *natatanggal ang* stress."

In the movie, Bong even agrees to do a breakdance number! He points out: "*Ako naman, kung ano'ng nire*-require *ng* script, *ginagawa ko. Trabaho 'yan ng isang artista!*"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"BENCHWARMERS." Underdogs take the upper hand.

Revenge of the geeks

By Noelani Torre

ROB SCHNEIDER, BELIEVE IT or not, plays the straight man in the Dennis Dugan-directed, Adam Sandler-produced comedy, "The Benchwarmers."

It's a fact that could befuddle movie lovers because, if Schneider is cool, then you can guess just how un-cool everybody else in this movie is!

Sidelines

Then again, "The Benchwarmers" is about un-cool people—the dorks, nerds and geeks who are always bullied and who generally spend their time on the sidelines, warming the bench.

This being a sports movie of sorts, these underdogs triumph over the athletically-gifted bullies in the end.

There's just something a little off about the fact that the underdogs are grown men in their 30s, and that the bad guys are 12-year-old Little Leaguers, who have meaner and heftier coaches!

Losers' team

Also, the losers' team—represented by landscaper Gus (Schneider), video store clerk Richie (David Spade), and nose-picking paper boy Clark (Jon Heder)—are a bunch of losers.

The plot is predictable: Gus feels sorry for dorks and nerds, young and old. He rescues a kid from being bullied by the Little Leaguers; he and his pals (Richie and Clark) play against the bullies and, surprisingly, win.

It turns out that the rescued kid's dad is billionaire Mel Schmegmer (Jon Lovitz), who himself was once a picked-on dork.

Schmegmer proposes a plan: The three older guys fight the best kids' baseball teams in the state, and the victor wins a brand new ballpark.

The three-man Benchwarmers' team is created, and nerds and dweebs everywhere finally have their own team to root for.

Laughter

Yes, moms and dads, your eight-year-old will be screaming with laughter at the projectile-vomiting jokes and gross gags that involve bodily functions.

Thankfully, the movie is quite short. It has a fast pace that allows you to quickly get over the non-funny gross-out stuff. This would imply that the movie is occasionally funny, which it is.

You'll probably find yourself chuckling here and there during "The Benchwarmers," but it'll be a defensive sort of chuckle—a laugh-so-you-don't-cry sort of thing.

With the high prices of movie tickets nowadays, you really *will* cry if you don't bring yourself to wring a few moments of fun from this throwaway comedy.

Jennifer Aniston becomes a bankable film star

From page A2-1

beautiful music together in real life.

Bolstering those reports was a magazine spread that featured stolen shots of the couple in romantic poses in a private rendezvous away from the movie studio. So, viewers were primed to read "actual" romantic intimations in the stars' scenes in "The Break-up."

Some industry analysts also point out that Vince has had a successful movie career thus far, so his lucky streak must have rubbed off on Jennifer, as well.

All of these factors worked in tandem to make "The Break-up" more than the "little" film it was initially believed to be. Lucky Jen—an unexpected hit is the best revenge!

His name is Craig, Daniel Craig

By Nestor U. Torre

LAST OCTOBER, DANIEL CRAIG was named the sixth actor to play James Bond, after Sean Connery, Roger Moore, Timothy Dalton, George Lazenby and Pierce Brosnan.

Some fans of the profitable film franchise expressed disappointment because Craig has blond hair, unlike most actors who have played the super agent, who have darker hair. In their consternation, they have dubbed Craig "James Blond."

Interpretation

But, other people have quickly come to Craig's defense, including four former Bond actors (Connery, Dalton, Moore and Brosnan). They point out that Craig is a better actor than most of them, and should bring the role an interpretation that's excitingly different and new.

Craig won the nod of the producers of the James Bond film series over many other contenders, some of them already stars in their own right. Why did he trounce the stiff competition? What qualities does he possess that they don't?

Producer Barbara Broccoli believes that Craig is the perfect choice for the new James Bond because he can give the traditionally suave character a grittier edge.

Another movie

She's so sure of her choice that, after his first film as Bond, "Casino Royale," he will shoot another 007 movie right away.

Dame Judy Dench has also leaped to the defense of her "Casino Royale" co-star: "He's a fine actor," she insists. "He brings something new and edgy to the role."

Pierce Brosnan seconds the motion: "I think he will have the last laugh at the end of it."

Their confidence in Craig is based on solid evidence of his talent as an actor. At only 16 years old, Craig moved from Chester to London to join the National Youth Theater. Later, he studied at the prestigious Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

In 2002, he was nominated for a London Evening Standard Theater Award for best actor for his performance in "A Number."

Recognition

Craig's film career started in 1992 with "The Power of One." He gained wider recognition in the UK with an important role in the acclaimed BBC drama special, "Our Friends in the North," in 1996.

In "Lara Croft: Tomb Raider," he played Angelina Jolie's rival. His other film outings include "The Road to Perdition" with Tom Hanks, "Sylvia" with Gwyneth Paltrow, "Munich" and "Enduring Love."

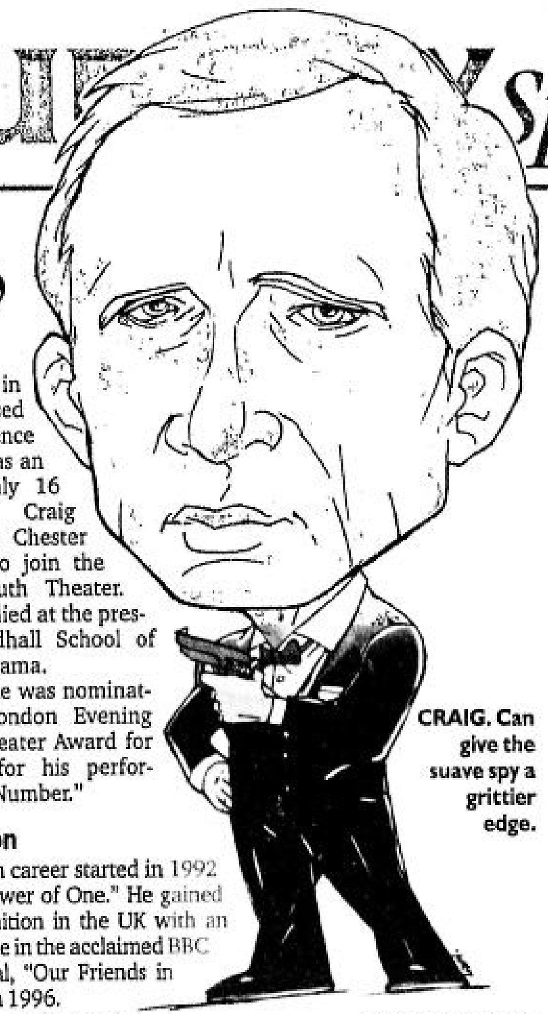
Trophy

For that last film, Craig won the best actor trophy at the European Film Awards, and was cited as British Actor of the Year (2004) at the London Critics Circle Film Awards.

Clearly, Daniel Craig is no pushover in the acting department. In fact, he could be the most gifted thespian to ever play James Bond.

Sardonic humor

But, will he fit the role of the movie world's top secret agent? Does he have the flair, charisma and sardonic humor that have characterized James Bond through the decades? That $64,000 question will be answered once Craig's first James Bond film is shown later this year.



CRAIG. Can give the suave spy a grittier edge.

CARICATURE BY LA MISTADES

Sizing up the 'bakya' crowd

AVELLANA. Nothing pejorative about the term.

By Behn Cervantes

WE PLAY THAT KIND OF music because we cater to the *masa*," quickly declared a mall's junior executive when I complained, about the (very) loud music incessantly playing in their establishment. "It's much too loud and deafening—it is noise pollution!," I insisted.

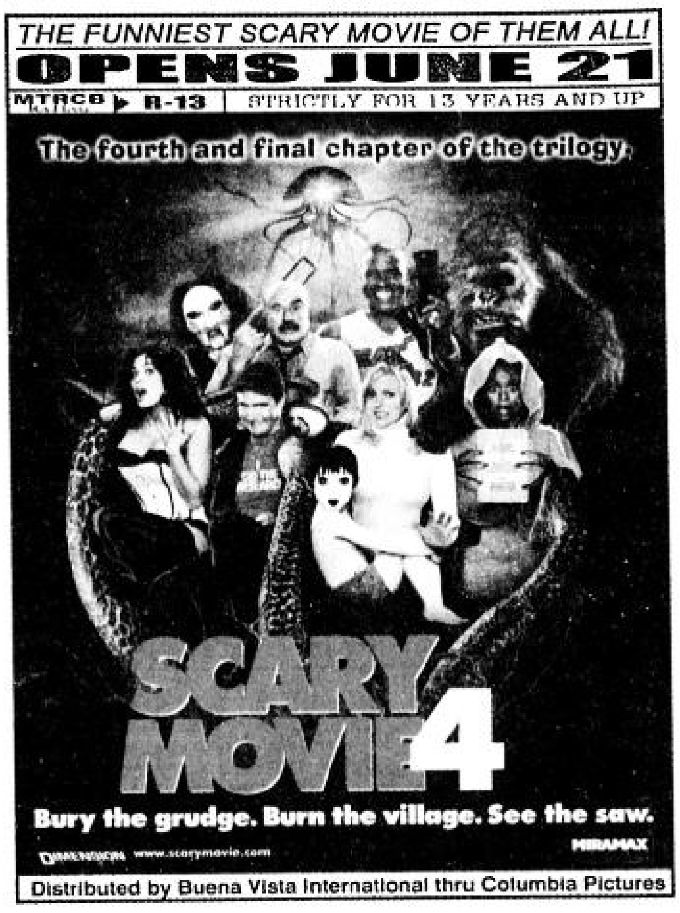
"The *masa* asked for *that* kind of music?," I asked in disbelief. I didn't think so.

In truth, mall denizens aren't consulted about the songs played in shopping centers. It's the executives who choose the repertoire. Then, they blame it on the taste of the *masa*. The victims become the guilty.

This is no different from movie producers who churn out haphazard productions, then blame their films' low quality on supposed *bakya* taste.

So, I give my lecture: "There is no *bakya* audience, only *bakya* producers. Producers approve the stories to be filmed; they hire the writers, directors and actors. They even

SIZING/ A3-3


THE FUNNIEST SCARY MOVIE OF THEM ALL!
OPENS JUNE 21
MTRCB R-13
STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS AND UP
The fourth and final chapter of the trilogy.
SCARY MOVIE 4
Bury the grudge. Burn the village. See the saw.
MIRAMAX
www.scarymovie.com
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

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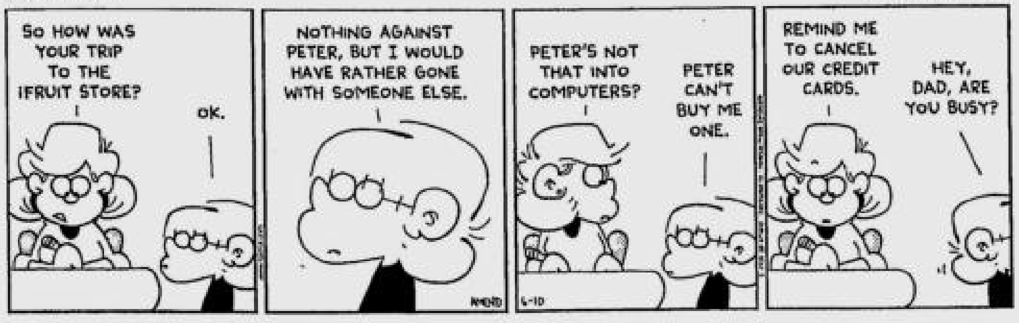
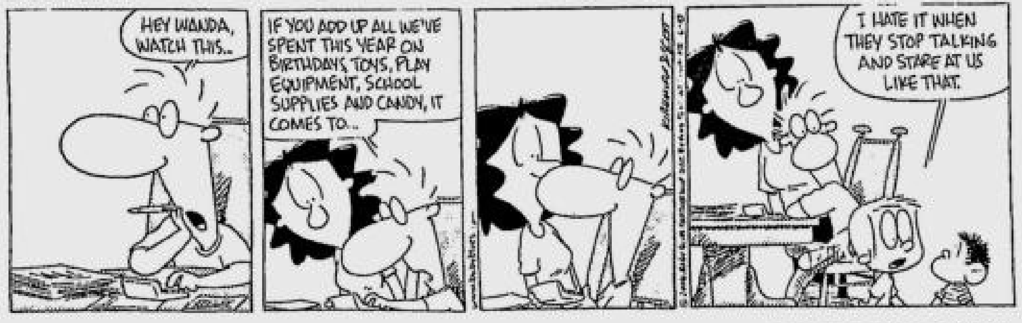
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


SO HOW WAS YOUR TRIP TO THE IFRUIT STORE?
OK.
NOTHING AGAINST PETER, BUT I WOULD HAVE RATHER GONE WITH SOMEONE ELSE.
PETER'S NOT THAT INTO COMPUTERS?
PETER CAN'T BUY ME ONE.
REMIND ME TO CANCEL OUR CREDIT CARDS.
HEY, DAD, ARE YOU BUSY?
AMEND
6-10

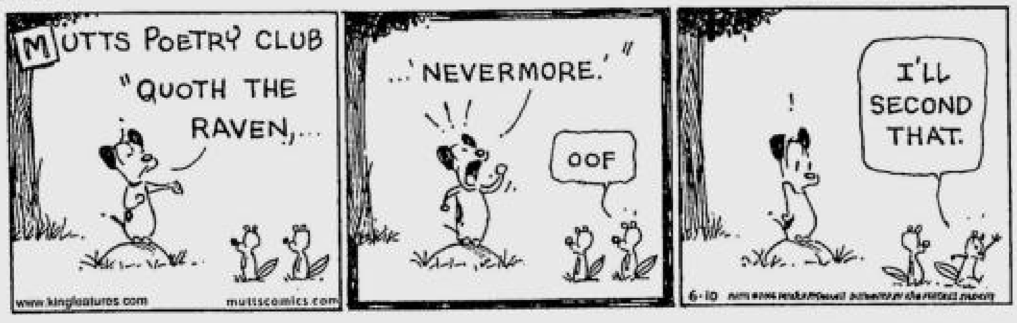
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


HEY WANDA, WATCH THIS..
IF YOU ADD UP ALL WE'VE SPENT THIS YEAR ON BIRTHDAYS, TOYS, PLAY EQUIPMENT, SCHOOL SUPPLIES AND CANDY, IT COMES TO...
I HATE IT WHEN THEY STOP TALKING AND STARE AT US LIKE THAT.

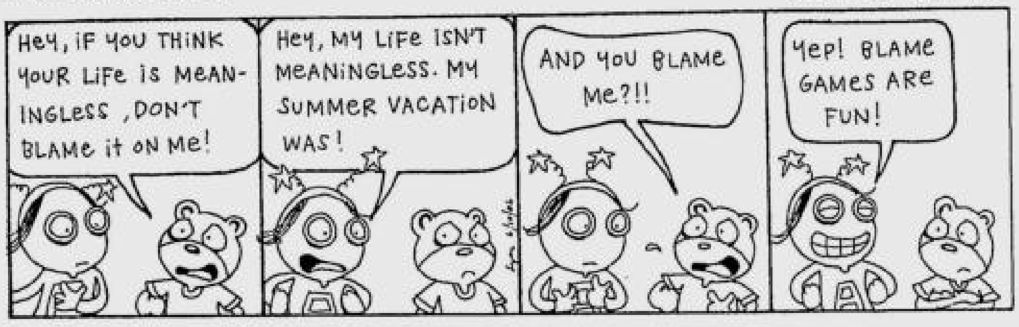
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


MUTTS POETRY CLUB
"QUOTH THE RAVEN,...
...'NEVERMORE.'"
OOF
!
I'LL SECOND THAT.
www.kingfeatures.com
muttscomics.com
6-10

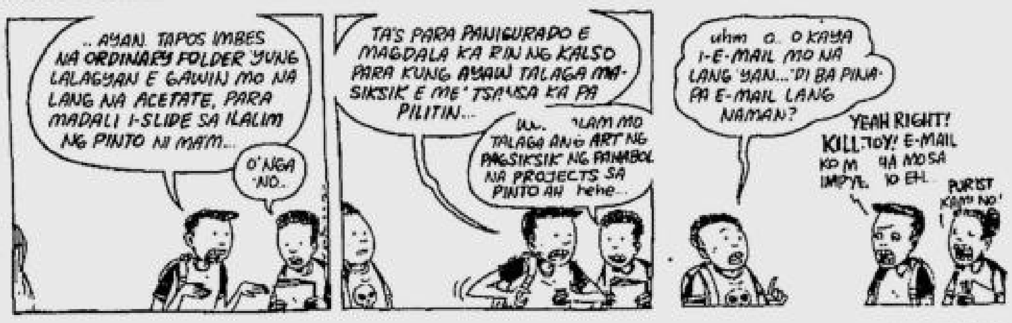
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Hey, if you think your life is meaningless, don't blame it on me!
Hey, my life isn't meaningless. My summer vacation was!
And you blame me?!!
Yep! Blame games are fun!

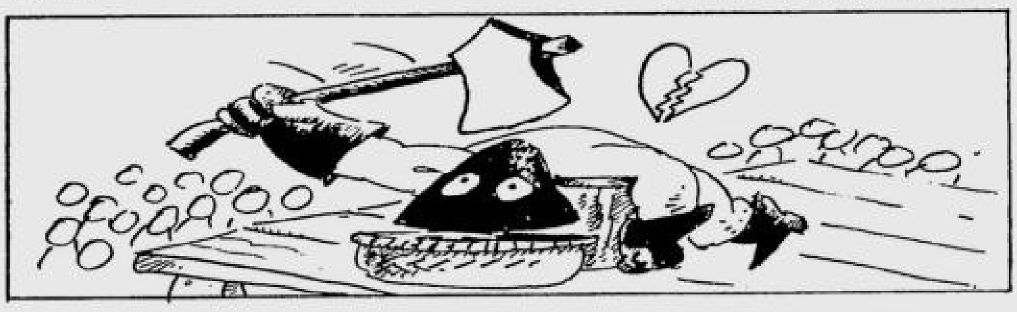
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


..AYAN. TAPOS IMBES NA ORDINARY FOLDER 'YUNG LALAGYAN E GAWIN MO NA LANG NA ACETATE, PARA MADALI I-SLIDE SA ILALIM NG PINTO NI MA'M...
O'NGA 'NO..
TA'S PARA PANIGURADO E MAGDALA KA RIN NG KALSO PARA KUNG AYAW TALAGA MASIKSIK E ME' TSANSA KA PA PILITIN...
TALAGA ANG ART NG PAGSIKSIK NG PANABOL NA PROJECTS SA PINTO AH hehe..
uhm o.. o kaya i-e-mail mo na lang 'yan...'di ba pina-pa e-mail lang naman?
YEAH RIGHT!
E-MAIL
PURIST KAMI NO'

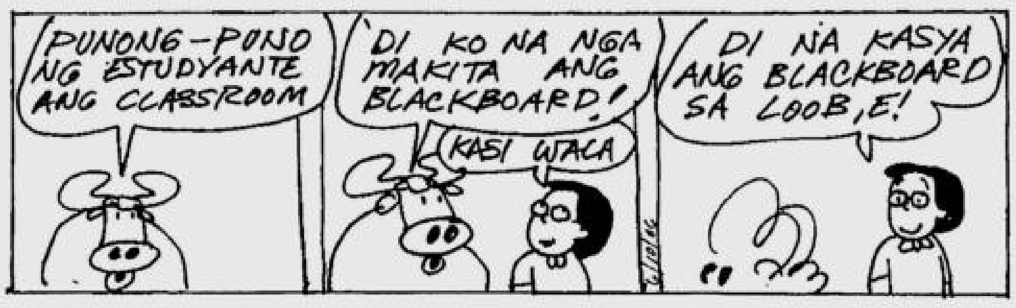
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



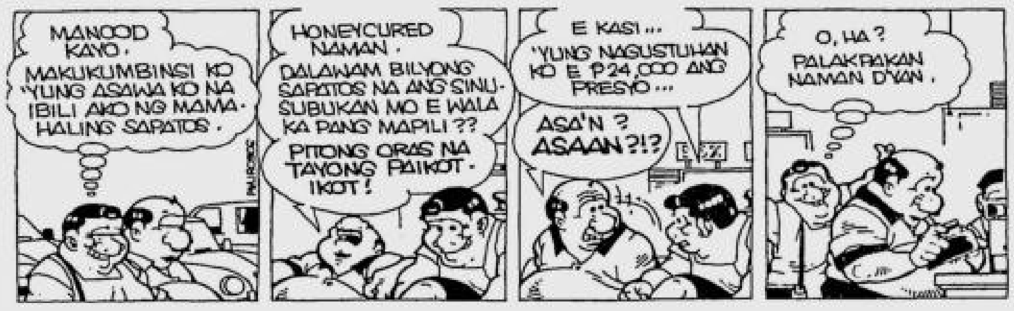
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


PUNONG-PUNO NG ESTUDYANTE ANG CLASSROOM
'DI KO NA NGA MAKITA ANG BLACKBOARD!
KASI WALA
DI NA KASYA ANG BLACKBOARD SA LOOB, E!

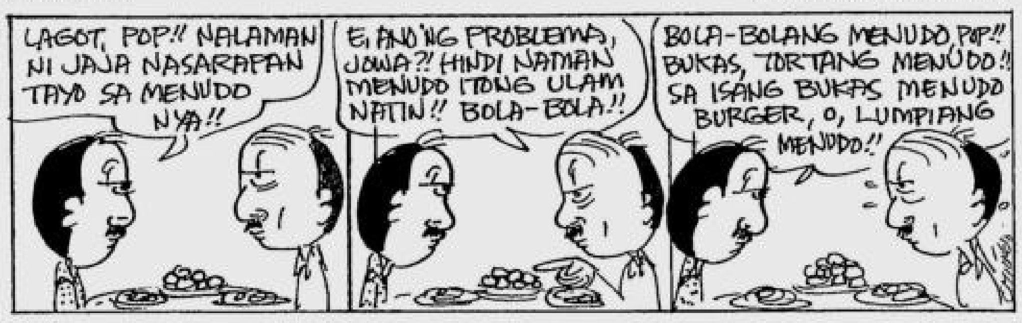
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


MANOOD KAYO. MAKUKUMBINSI KO 'YUNG ASAWA KO NA IBILI AKO NG MAMAHALING SAPATOS.
HONEYCURED NAMAN. DALAWAM BILYONG SAPATOS NA ANG SINUSUBUKAN MO E WALA KA PANG MAPILI??
PITONG ORAS NA TAYONG PAIKOT-IKOT!
E KASI... 'YUNG NAGUSTUHAN KO E ₱24,000 ANG PRESYO...
ASA'N? ASAAN?!?
O, HA? PALAKPAKAN NAMAN D'YAN.

LOVEKNOTS

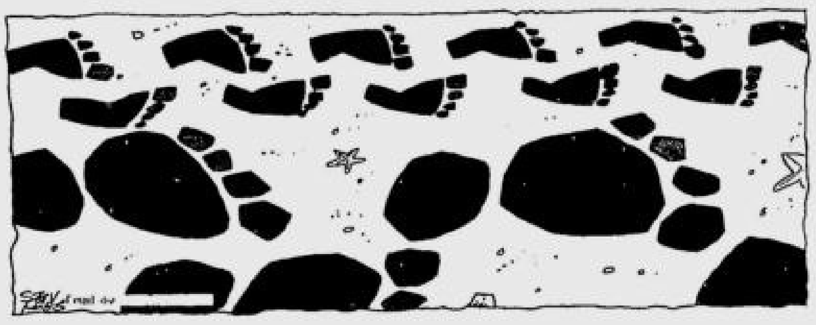
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


LAGOT, POP!! NALAMAN NI JAJA NASARAPAN TAYO SA MENUDO NYA!!
E, ANO 'NG PROBLEMA, JOWA?! HINDI NAMAN MENUDO ITONG ULAM NATIN!! BOLA-BOLA!!
BOLA-BOLANG MENUDO, POP!! BUKAS, TORTANG MENUDO!! SA ISANG BUKAS MENUDO BURGER, O, LUMPIANG MENUDO!!

DIVINE COMEDY

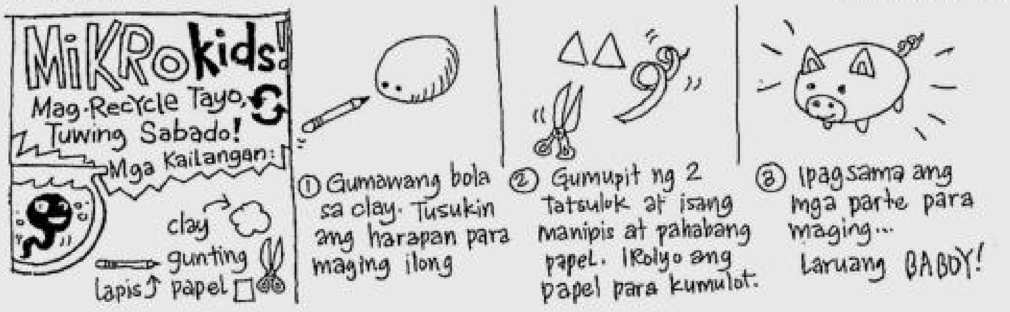
BY STEVEN PABALINAS

One night I had a dream. I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the LORD. Sandali lang... hindi pala si Lord yun. Si Abominable "Bigfoot" Snowman pala yun.



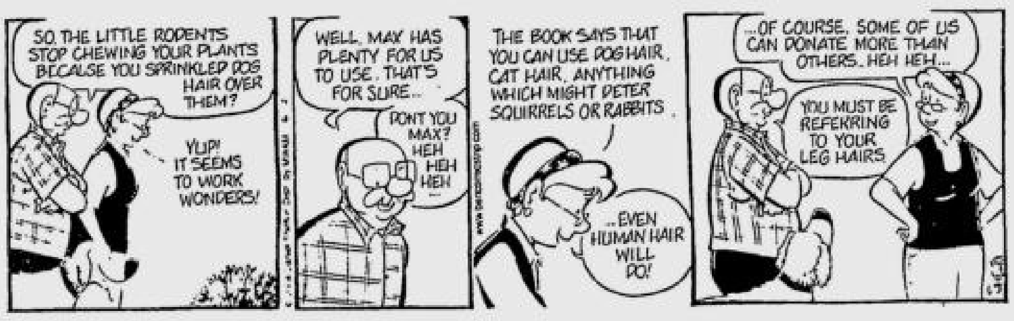
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MiKRokids!
Mag-Recycle Tayo, Tuwing Sabado!
Mga Kailangan:
clay
gunting
lapis
papel
① Gumawang bola sa clay. Tusukin ang harapan para maging ilong
② Gumupit ng 2 tatsulok at isang manipis at pahabang papel. IRolyo ang papel para kumulot.
③ Ipagsama ang mga parte para maging... Laruang BABOY!

BEN

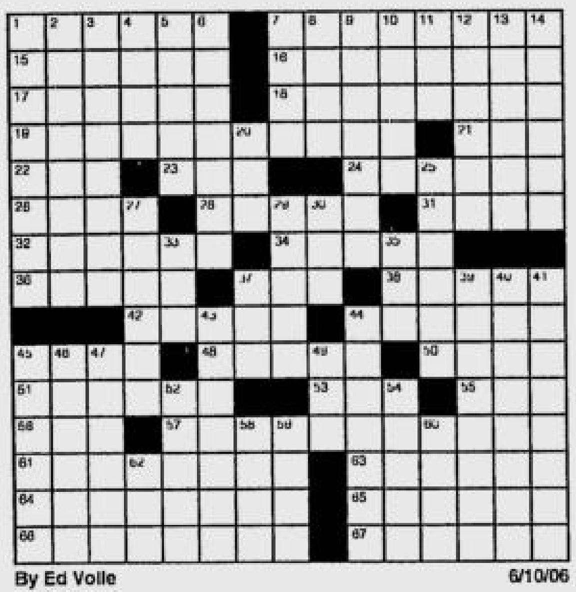
BY DANIEL SHELTON


SO, THE LITTLE RODENTS STOP CHEWING YOUR PLANTS BECAUSE YOU SPRINKLED DOG HAIR OVER THEM?
YUP! IT SEEMS TO WORK WONDERS!
WELL, MAX HAS PLENTY FOR US TO USE. THAT'S FOR SURE...
DON'T YOU MAX? HEH HEH HEH
THE BOOK SAYS THAT YOU CAN USE DOG HAIR, CAT HAIR, ANYTHING WHICH MIGHT DETER SQUIRRELS OR RABBITS.
...EVEN HUMAN HAIR WILL DO!
...OF COURSE, SOME OF US CAN DONATE MORE THAN OTHERS.. HEH HEH...
YOU MUST BE REFERRING TO YOUR LEG HAIRS

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Fight against
7 Fit for climbing
15 Ring around a pupil
16 Ornate wardrobes
17 Small crowns
18 Superlatively small
19 Unpleasant reminders
21 Enzyme: suff.
22 "__ Abner"
23 Old space station
24 Bench with a back
26 Italian treats
28 Bad ball to be behind
31 Uh...pardon me
32 Homesteader
34 Save for future use
36 Syrian leader
37 Wide inlet
38 San Antonio landmark
42 Pole of Highland games
44 Lacking a key
45 Academic grade
48 Marsh grasses
50 "Atlas Shrugged" author
51 Potemkin mutiny site
53 Late starter?
55 Ballerina steps
56 In medias __
57 Taken into custody
61 Poisonous shrub
63 Expressionless
64 Beach property
65 Of a main artery
66 Alienate
67 Existent: Lat.

DOWN
1 Santa __ Island, CA
2 Mouths, e.g.
3 Vegetarian
4 Carried in the mind
5 Danger signal
6 More delicious
7 Huff and Jaffe
8 R. Ebert, e.g.
9 General pardon
10 Cad
11 Small island
12 Air intake
13 Renter
14 Value highly
20 Jackie's Onassis
25 Liz or Rip
27 Woodpiles
29 Angry look
30 Dry feed
33 Writer LeShan
35 Winged mammal
37 Quilting event
39 Poetic feet
40 Bull Run by another name
41 Like Julian calendar dates
43 De Wilde or Tartikoff
44 Javelin
45 Glum
46 Lehman and Astaire
47 Change place cards
49 N, E, W or S
52 Composer of "The Nubians of Plutonia"
54 Wrinkle-free fabric
58 __ Xiaoping
59 Art Deco designer
60 Few and far between
62 2nd-largest continent



By Ed Voile
Gillette, WY

6/10/06

Friday's Puzzle Solved

E	S	C	H	E	W		A	J	A	R		F	L	O
S	E	N	O	R	A		M	E	N	U		E	A	R
T	E	N	N	I	S	M	A	T	C	H		D	R	E
			E	C	H	O		S	I	R	L	O	I	N
G	O	R	Y		T	R	I	K	E		I	R	A	S
A	R	I		R	U	N	N	I	N	G	M	A	T	E
Z	A	G	R	E	B		P	E	T	R	I			
A	N	G	E	R		O	L	D		A	T	H	I	A
			G	U	A	V	A		U	P	S	E	T	S
A	D	V	A	N	C	E	C	O	P	Y		B	E	T
B	O	O	R		T	R	E	K	S		M	A	M	A
H	O	L	D	O	U	T		A	I	D	A			
O	W	L		D	A	I	L	Y	D	O	U	B	L	E
R	O	E		I	R	M	A		E	N	V	I	E	S
S	P	Y		E	Y	E	D		S	T	E	V	I	E

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6/10/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a very real, human, earthy quality that makes others identify with you. You are a sympathetic, kind person. Not only that, you are resourceful, talented and extremely capable. Your experiences teach you about life's cycles. You can be emotional and swept away at times. However, your humor always prevails. Relationships and friendships will be richly rewarding this year.

Birthdate of: Faith Evans, singer; Hattie McDaniel, actress; Judy Garland, singer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Your imagination is keen today! (You can almost read the minds of other people.) You feel especially sympathetic toward siblings and relatives right now.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You have great taste, and you love your creature comforts—the best in life. Today you're definitely tempted to go overboard buying something luxurious. (You can make money too!)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You feel strangely tuned in to others today—very understanding and sympathetic to their needs. This is a good day to work out problems with close friends and partners.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You are attracted to hidden, mystical ideas today. You might not fully realize this. Instead, perhaps you keep noticing coincidences that are curious.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You're truly ready to help a friend today. Perhaps it works the other way around, and someone is ready to help you. Either way, it's a mutually beneficial opportunity.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): A boss, parent or authority figure in your life shows compassion for someone (or a situation), and this earns your respect. You agree wholeheartedly.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Exotic subjects and foreign countries intrigue you today. You want to learn more about strange lands and different customs and beliefs. Tarot, astrology, dowsing and all aspects of hidden knowledge appeal to you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You're willing to raise money or urge others to donate something for those who are less fortunate than you. This is certainly a noble impulse. (And of course, what goes around comes around.)

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Take advantage of the stars today to arrive at an agreement with others. It's also a good day to smooth over troubled waters with others.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Trust your intuition at work today. Your hunches will be accurate or meaningful in some way. It's as if you're plugged in to the ether or something.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Let your artistic impulses flourish today! You're definitely in touch with your muse. You also feel very sympathetic to the suffering of children. (Flirtations could make you swoon.)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): It is always wise to be kind to family. (They are forever.) You have an opportunity to help a family member today. Consider it a privilege, which of course, it is.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

9	6	2				3	5	8
8				3				2
4								9
			8		1			
	9						7	
			2		5			
3								7
2				8				3
1	7	9				8	6	5

Difficulty Level ★★★★

6/10

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

4	9	6	1	8	3	5	7	2
5	3	8	2	4	7	6	9	1
7	1	2	9	6	5	4	8	3
2	8	3	7	5	4	9	1	6
6	5	1	3	9	8	7	2	4
9	4	7	6	2	1	8	3	5
3	2	4	8	7	6	1	5	9
8	6	9	5	1	2	3	4	7
1	7	5	4	3	9	2	6	8

Difficulty Level ★★★★

Sizing up the 'bakya' crowd

From page A3-1

decide on the publicity slant that they think will make their movies big hits."

Cheap

Deacdes ago, the late Lamberto V. Avellana, National Artist for Theater and Film, admitted coining the term *"bakya"* audience. In modern parlance, *bakya* means *baduy*. It also means cheap and uncultured.

Avellana claimed there was nothing pejorative about the term. He described moviegoers as such because viewers in the orchestra section of a cinema generally wore wooden shoes *(bakya)*.

Success

In pre-war days, a movie's financial success was determined by the number of wooden shoes that entered the moviehouse. The louder the sound of those shoes, the greater the box-office success of the film.

Over the years, however, the term *bakya* has become synonymous with bad taste—to an audience who can't appreciate good films. Why? Because they lack education and proper exposure to culture, they are perceived to have inferior taste—filmgoers who patronize local cinema's overused soap ingredients: Over-acting, stilted dialogue and bad filmmaking. But producers supplied what these people demanded.

Taste

Producers claim they are trapped by the taste of the *bakya* crowd. But, lazy producers are merely coming up with excuses for the inferior films they produce—to cover up their own bad taste and lack of artistry and education.

Little respect

So, when they complain about the death of the local movie industry, the fault is really theirs. They've brought it upon themselves by showing little respect for the audience that provides them their sustenance.

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Cinema	Movie	Times	Rating
1	THE OMEN	1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00	R-13
2	CARS	12:20, 3:00, 5:50, 8:30, 11:10	GP
3	TAKE THE LEAD	11:40, 5:10, 10:35	PG-13
3	CARS	2:35, 7:55	G
4	THE INSIDE MAN	12:10, 2:55, 5:40, 8:25, 11:05	PG-13

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DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

CARS G 11:55,2:35,5:15 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND PG13 7:40,10:00	OMEN 666 R13 1:10,3:30,5:50, 8:10,10:30	TAKE THE LEAD PG13 12:15,2:45,5:15 7:45,10:15
THE INSIDE MAN PG13 12:15,2:45,5:15, 7:45,10:15	FAILURE TO LAUNCH PG13 1:30,3:35,5:40,7:45,9:50	CARS G 2:05,4:45,7:25,10:05

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UNIVERSAL

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② CARS
MTRCB GP
5:05, 7:40, 10:15

③ OMEN 666
MTRCB R-13
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

④ CARS
MTRCB GP
11:30, 2:00
THE INSIDE MAN
MTRCB PG-13
4:30, 7:15, 10:00

PREMIERE THEATRE
THE INSIDE MAN 1:45 /
TAKE THE LEAD 9:10
MTRCB PG-13
Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

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Catch the French Film Festival 2006 at the Shang Cineplex from June 9-18! Celebrate French Spring as you enjoy a selection of critically acclaimed films, Le Me and My Sister (12nn), Children of Paradise (2:40 pm), L' Esquive (6:20pm) and Riviera (10pm) at the Cinema 1. Tickets are at P50 / person

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AT THE CINEMAS

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Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729-7777

THX

G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 THE OMEN	2 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND	3 MANAY PO	4 ALL ABOUT LOVE
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 CARS	2 THE OMEN	3 INSIDE MAN 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 FAILURE TO LAUNCH	5 TAKE THE LEAD	6 X-MEN: LAST ST[illegible]	7 THE DA VINCI CODE
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND	2 THE OMEN		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX CARS 2:30, 5:10, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX THE OMEN 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 TAKE THE LEAD 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND 2:20, 4:30, 6:40, 8:50, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 INSIDE MAN 1:15, 3:45, 6:15, 8:45, 11:15 GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX CARS	2 INSIDE MAN		
	3 THE OMEN	4 TAKE THE LEAD	5 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 THE OMEN	2 CARS	3 FAILURE TO LAUNCH	4 AQUAMARINE / X-MEN
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	1 THE OMEN	2 CARS		
	3 TAKE THE LEAD	4 INSIDE MAN	5 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND	

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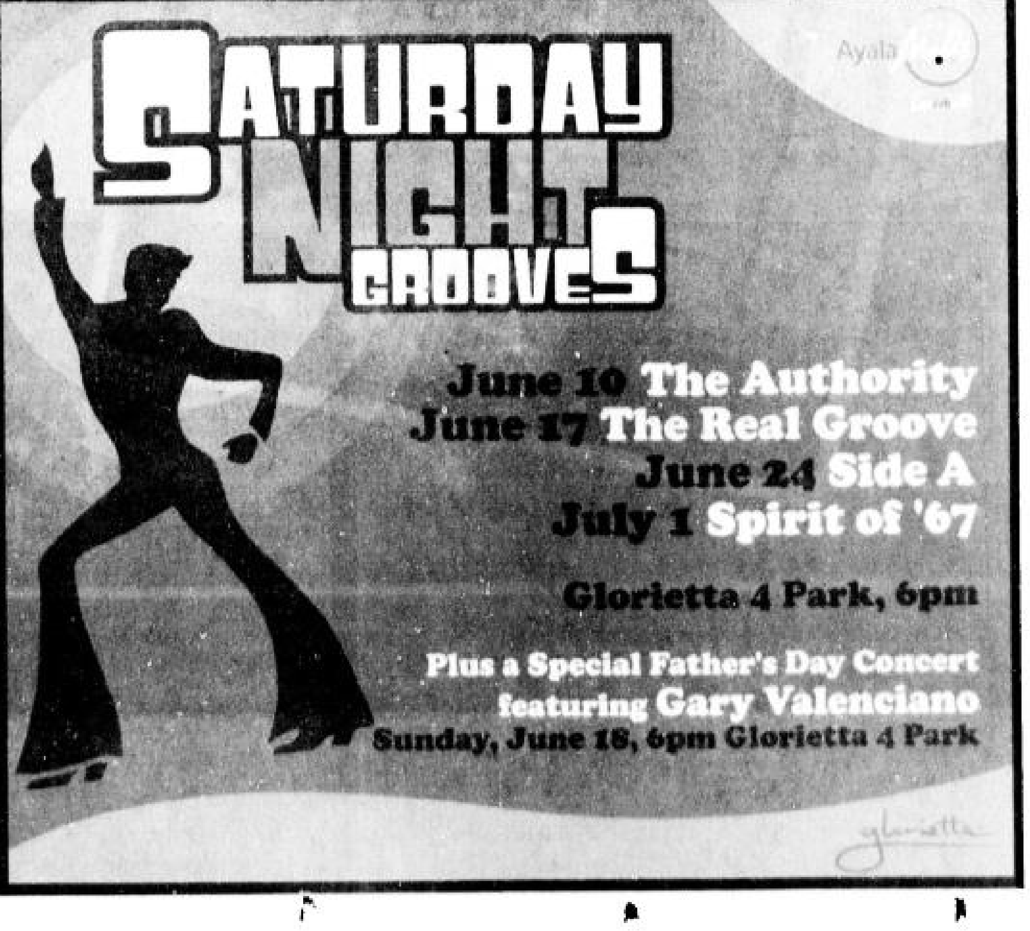

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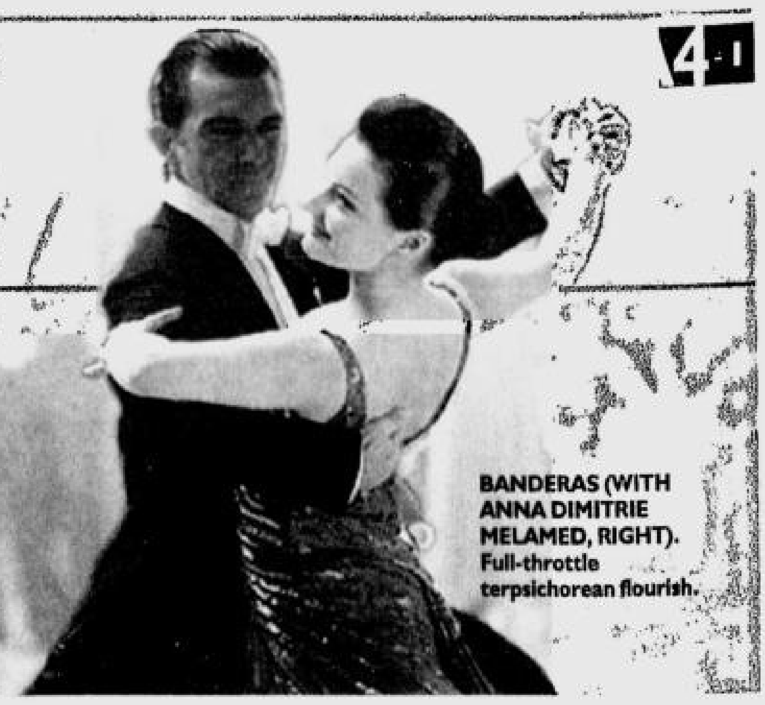

BANDERAS (WITH ANNA DIMITRIE MELAMED, RIGHT). Full-throttle terpsichorean flourish.

By Rito P. Asilo

"Take the Lead"

D: Liz Friedlander

S: Antonio Banderas, Alfre Woodard, Dante Basco

AFTER BALLROOM DANCE INSTRUCtor Pierre Dulaine (Antonio Banderas) witnesses a student smash a high school principal's car with a golf club, he walks into the school—in the violence-prone South Bronx—and announces his intention to teach ballroom dancing to students in the detention class, which includes the automobile-wrecking student.

Despite bureaucratic odds, unruly rap-and-rock music-weaned pupils (including Fil-Am actor, Dante Basco), and a perplexed PTA, Pierre slowly breaks his students' resistance to traditional dance forms like the cha-cha, waltz, foxtrot, rhumba, merengue and tango by infusing the grooves of contemporary rap and hip-hop music into the terpsichorean brew generally regarded by his miscreant wards as "uncool." Imagine George Gershwin and Lena Horne dabbling in hip-hop music!

If these scenes weren't based on a true story, you'd find yourself cringing at the implausibility of the film's premise, or thinking that the guy is either delusional or raring for his death wish. But, as they say, fact is stranger than fiction, and fairy tales still happen even in these cynical times—minus the gold dust, of course.

With the suave Banderas in top form, director Liz Friedlander laces her dance-floor action with short dramatic sketches of Dulaine's students, but glosses over the personal details of Dulaine himself, whose wife died from cancer five years earlier.

When you have a seemingly selfless protagonist like Pierre, you wonder about the motivation that drives his actions—a crucial element of the story that isn't given much attention. Nevertheless, the well-intentioned movie is more an affirmation of the kindness of a stranger (Dulaine) than an examination of his soul, so you are forced to take him at face value: He is a nice guy with good intentions. Period.

Like other selfless teacher-to-the-rescue-of-lost-students-themed productions ("Music of the Heart," "Mr. Holland's Opus," "Stand and Deliver" and, well, "Sister Act"), familiar caricatures abound. And the film's world-weary characters make their eventful if predictable change of heart just in time for the smashing finale, which, while nowhere near "Strictly Ballroom" caliber, is executed with full-throttle terpsichorean flourish.

Cloaked in the guise of artistic license and laced by its "life is dance" philosophy, the movie—like many other Hollywood productions based on true events—weaves fact and fiction together to pepper its been-there, seen-that narrative.

After all, the students of the *real* Pierre Dulaine weren't really unruly, jaded high school-age youngsters, but down-on-their-luck grade school students—but *they* wouldn't be very interesting in the realm of box-office-conscious mainstream filmmaking, would they?

Despite its excesses and weaknesses, "Take the Lead" dispenses valuable lessons about facing life's challenges: For people who constantly face life-altering situations, there are good choices just waiting to be made. But, it's up to them to find the suitable rhythm and groove to sway to in the crazy, merry dance called life.

2ND WEEK!
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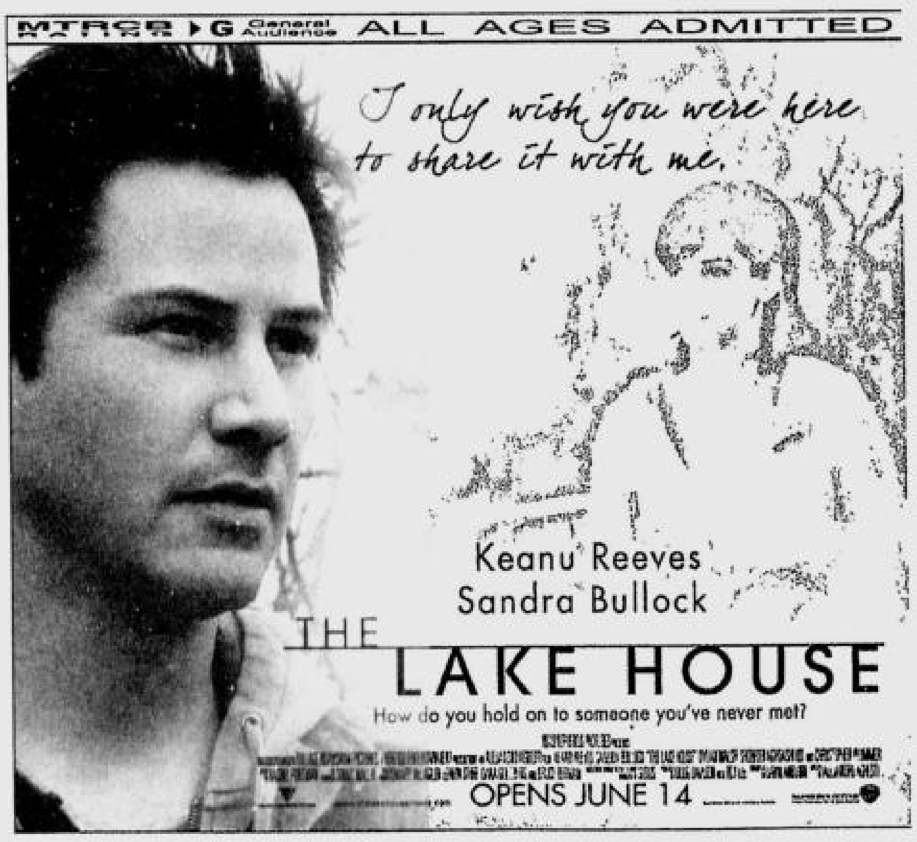

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Answer:

His unique ability is to change a flat tire at 2.5 seconds flat
Answer:

The quiet doctor who runs the local medical clinic, err, mechanic shop
Answer:

Radiator Springs's resident hippie, who endorses the natural benefits of organic fuel
Answer:

Send in your answers together with your name, address, age and contact number at your nearest SM Cinema branch or e-mail to movieaddicts smcinemas@yahoo.com Ten (10) lucky winners will be chosen from all the entries received Answers must all be correct in order to qualify Multiple entries sent will only be counted as a single entry Deadline for the submission of entries is on June 20, 2006.

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June 13 (Tuesday)	Southmall 11:00 a.m. Sucat 1:00 p.m Bicutan 3:00
June 14 (Wednesday)	Mall of Asia 11:00 p.m.
June 15 (Thursday)	Bacoor 11:00 a.m. Dasmariñas 1:00 p.m. Molino 3:00 p.m. Sta. Rosa 5:00 p.m.
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NASCAR 3D
12:30 3:30 6:30 9:30
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ALL ABOUT LOVE
DIRECTOR'S CLUB
XMEN III
CENTERSTAGE
RESERVED
THE OMEN
TAKE THE LEAD
INSIDE MAN
CARS
XMEN III
MANAY PO

THE PODIUM
CINEMA 1
INSIDE MAN
CINEMA 2
CARS

SM NORTH EDSA
XMEN III
ALL ABOUT LOVE
CARS
THE OMEN
MANAY PO
TAKE THE LEAD
M:I:III
INSIDE MAN

SM CITY BICUTAN
THE OMEN
CARS
ALL ABOUT LOVE
XMEN III

SM MEGACINEMA
INSIDE MAN
M:I:III
XMEN III
CARS
CHAOS
THE OMEN
OVER THE HEDGE
POSEIDON
MYMP FALL IN LOVE
TAKE THE LEAD
ALL ABOUT LOVE
MANAY

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
CARS
TAKE THE LEAD
THE OMEN
XMEN III
M:I:III
CHAOS
ALL ABOUT LOVE
INSIDE MAN
MANAY PO

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
BENCHWARMERS
OVER THE HEDGE
CHAOS
XMEN III
MANAY PO
THE OMEN
INSIDE MAN
CARS
ALL ABOUT LOVE
POSEIDON
M:I:III
TAKE THE LEAD

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CARS
MANAY PO
ALL ABOUT LOVE
XMEN III

SM CITY STA. MESA
CARS
THE OMEN
XMEN III
TAKE THE LEAD
ALL ABOUT LOVE
MANAY PO
BENCHWARMERS
INSIDE MAN
M:I:III
CHAOS

SM CITY MANILA
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TAKE THE LEAD
CHAOS
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POSEIDON
XMEN III
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M:I:III
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CARS

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TAKE THE LEAD
XMEN III
INSIDE MAN
CARS
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XMEN III
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CARS
ALL ABOUT LOVE
MANAY PO
XMEN III

SM CITY BACOOR
BENCHWARMERS
M:I:III
XMEN III
MANAY PO
THE OMEN
ALL ABOUT LOVE
CARS
CHAOS

LUZON

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XMEN III
ALL ABOUT LOVE
SENTINEL
MANAY PO

SM CITY LUCENA
XMEN II
ALL ABOUT LOVE
MANAY PO
BENCHWARMERS

SM CITY CLARK
THE OMEN
XMEN III
CARS
MANAY PO
REINCARNATION
ALL ABOUT LOVE

SM CITY PAMPANGA
THE OMEN
CARS
XMEN III
MANAY PO
REINCARNATION
ALL ABOUT LOVE

SM CITY MOLINO
ALL ABOUT LOVE
XMEN III
MANAY PO
CHAOS

SM CITY STA. ROSA
MANAY PO
ALL ABOUT LOVE
CARS
XMEN III

SM CITY CEBU
XMEN III
CARS
THE OMEN
FAILURE TO LAUNCH
AQUAMARINE
M:I:III
ALL ABOUT LOVE
BANDIDAS

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY ILOILO
FAILURE TO LAUNCH
RESERVED
ALL ABOUT LOVE
M:I:III
MANAY PO
XMEN III
RESERVED
REINCARNATION

SM CITY DAVAO
XMEN III
SILENT HILL
ALL ABOUT LOVE
THE OMEN
MANAY PO
CARS

SM CITY CAGAYAN
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ALL ABOUT LOVE
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GALLERIA 632-6116

1 THE DA VINCI CODE • THX
12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00

2 CARS
11:40 2:15 4:50 7:25 10:00

3 THE INSIDE MAN
11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00

4 TAKE THE LEAD
11:40 2:15 4:50 7:25 10:00

5 THE OMEN
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

6 CHAOS
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

7 X-MEN 3
12:40 3.00 5:20 7:40 10:00

8 ALL ABOUT LOVE
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

9 MANAY PO
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

10 THE BENCHWARMERS
1:00 3:10 5:20 7:30 9:40

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 THE OMEN
10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

2 MANAY PO
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

3 THE INSIDE MAN
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

4 ALL ABOUT LOVE
10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

5 TAKE THE LEAD
10:10 12:30 2.50 5:10 7:30 10:00

6 CARS
10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

7 X-MEN 3
11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

METRO EAST 682-6193 • 682-6190

1 THE INSIDE MAN
1:10 3:40 6:15 9:00

2 CARS
1:00 3:40 6:20 9:00

3 TAKE THE LEAD
12:50 3:35 6:20 9:05

4 THE DA VINCI CODE
12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00

5 MANAY PO
11:25 1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05

6 THE OMEN
11:05 1:35 4:05 6:35 9:05

7 X-MEN 3
11:40 2.00 4:20 6.40 9:10

8 ALL ABOUT LOVE
11:30 1:55 4:25 6:55 9:15

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3228 to 30

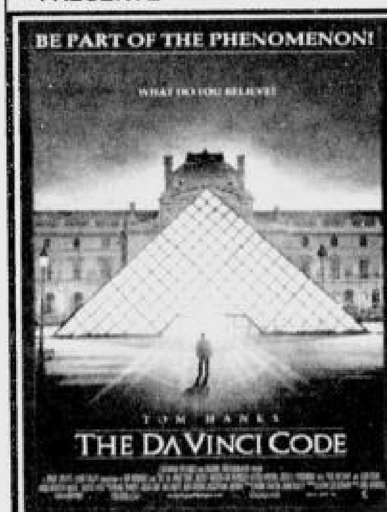
1 THE DA VINCI CODE
2 ALL ABOUT LOVE
3 X-MEN 3
4 CARS
5 MANAY PO
6 THE OMEN

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2578

1 ALL ABOUT LOVE
2 X-MEN 3
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-6378

1 THE INSIDE MAN
2 CARS
3 TAKE THE LEAD
4 THE OMEN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3 ALL ABOUT LOVE
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2 ALL ABOUT LOVE
3 BANDIDAS
4 THE DA VINCI CODE
5 X-MEN 3
6 OVER THE HEDGE

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1 X-MEN 3
2 ALL ABOUT LOVE
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STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

Healing with roses

RECENTLY, A FRIEND invited me to attend the healing service of Bro. Carmelo Cortez at the House of Prayer of the Eucharist and Grace in Bulacan.

My friends and I brought white roses, as is the practice. I sat in the chapel and saw through the glass window behind the altar the towering statue of the Blessed Mother:

A rosary hung on her right hand, and a brown cloth scapular on the left. The sight was inspiring.

Service

Holy Mass started at 11:30 a.m., officiated by Fr. Rodel Ponce. Right after, the healing service of Bro. Carmelo began. He laid his hands on people's foreheads and on their palms. When he placed his hand on my head and put rose petals on my chest, icons suddenly appeared on the petals.

As expressions of amazement engulfed the chapel, I was overcome by a sense of awe and wonder: "Is this true?," I asked myself. I did not have an explanation to what just happened.

Bro. Carmelo said: "More than the petals, it's the inner conversion and forgiveness that will start the healing process."

Replica

I left the site feeling moved. The church has a small museum and a replica of the Holy Land beside the House of Prayer that reminded me of my visit to Jerusalem.

On June 12, the Mother of Eucharist and Grace community will celebrate its 15th anniversary. A mass will be held at noon, to be officiated by Bishops Jose Oliveros, Cirilo Almario and Ruben Profugo. The healing service of Bro. Carmelo will immediately follow.

To get there, take the North Expressway, and turn right at the Bocaue exit. Before the bridge, make a right turn to San Jose del Monte, and proceed straight ahead. Call 0906 497-2763.

E-mail mandynavasero@yahoo.com, or call 899-1767.

BRO. CORTEZ. Mystical experience.

Nature of the beast

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

PEOPLE OFTEN THINK THAT DEMONS ARE creatures different from human beings. In the Bhagavad-gita, the Supreme Person explains that some human beings possess demonic qualities. Here's an explanation:

"Arrogance, pride, anger, conceit, harshness and ignorance—these qualities characterize demonic nature. Transcendental qualities are conducive to liberation, whereas demonic qualities lead to bondage.

"You won't find cleanliness, proper behavior or truth among demons. They have no intelligence and engage in unbeneficial endeavors meant to destroy the world.

Gratification

"Demons take shelter in insatiable lust, pride and false prestige. They are attracted by the impermanence of illusions. They believe that gratification of the senses is the prime necessity of human civilization. Thus, their anxiety doesn't end!

"A demonic nature sways people to believe that they are perfect, powerful and happy. They are deluded by ignorance, perplexed by anxiety, and bound by illusions. Bewildered

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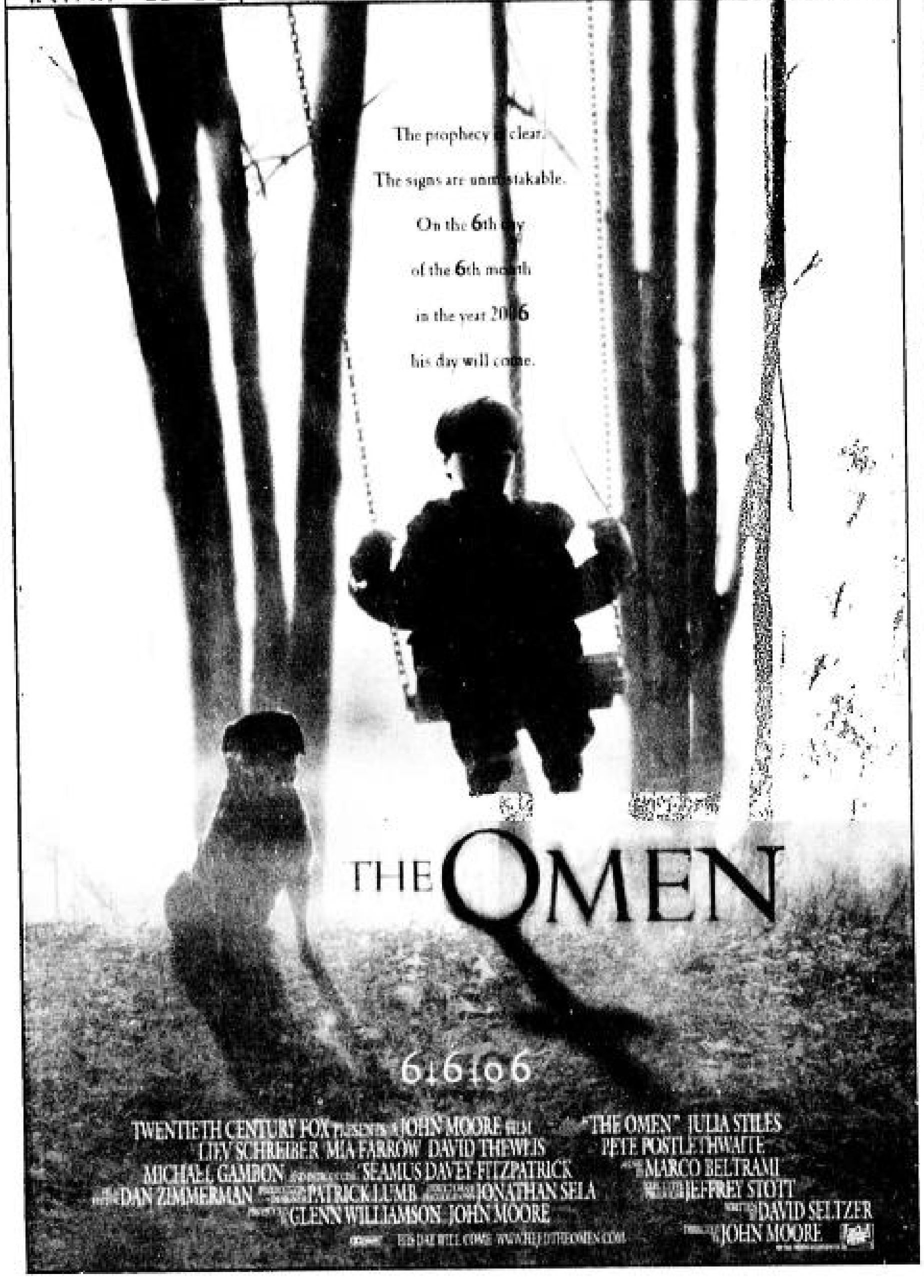

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IT HAPPENED IN 1818
NOW IT'S HAPPENING AGAIN

OPENS JUNE 14

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THE BELL WITCH STORY

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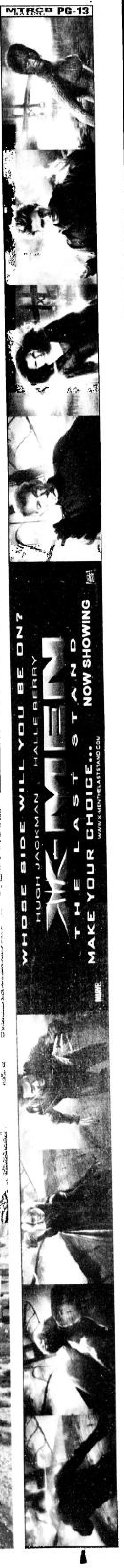
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TAKE THE LEAD 1:00 / 3:50 / 6:40 / 9:30	MANAY PO 12:40 / 2.55 / 5:10 / 7:25 / 9.40	THE DA VINCI CODE 12.30 / 3:40 / 6.50 / 10.00	
ALL ABOUT LOVE 12:10 / 2:35 / 5:00 / 7:25 / 9:50	BENCH WARMERS 12:25 / 2:5 / 4:35 FAILURE TO LAUNCH 6:00 / 8:00 / 10:00	X-MEN 3 12:40 / 3:00 / 5:20 / 7:40 / 10:00	OMEN 666 1:55 / 4:25 / 6:55 / 9:25

ANIMALL CINEMAS

1	OMEN 666 12.55 / 3 25 / 5.55 / 8:25	CARS 12:50 / 3:20 / 6:50 / 8:20	X-MEN 3 11:30 / 1:50 / 4:10 / 6.30 / 8:50
4	ALL ABOUT LOVE 12:10 / 1:15 / 3:40 / 6:05 / 8:30	THE DA VINCI CODE 12:05 / 3:00 / 5:55 / 8:50	DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

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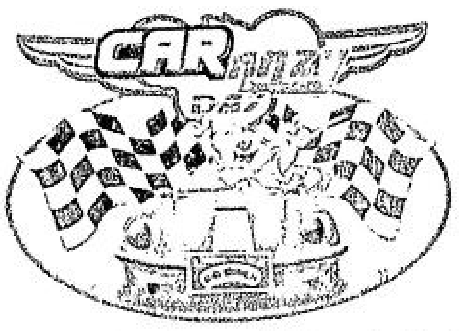

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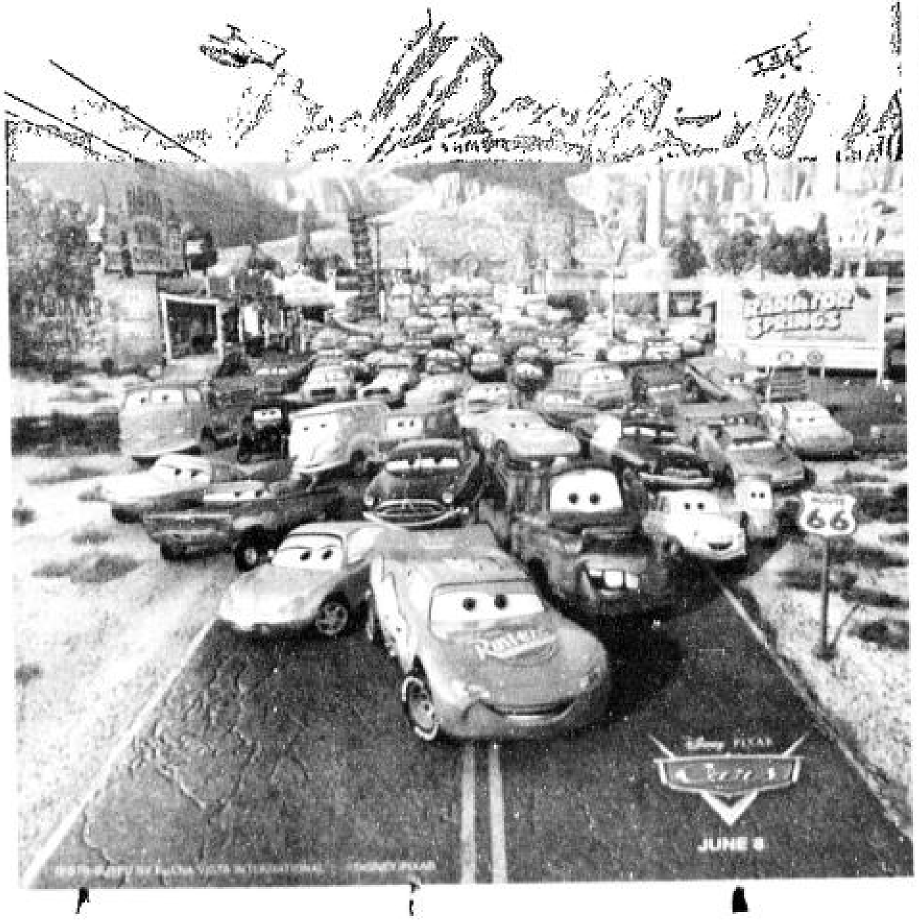

STRATHAM AND PHILLIPPE. Mismatched duo.

Action in a flux of 'Chaos'

By Noelani Torre

THE JASON STATHAM, RYAN Phillippe, and Wesley Snipes-starrer "Chaos" is the sort of movie that you'd enjoy watching—but probably wouldn't watch again. It's not a bad movie, but neither is it brilliant.

Directed by Tony Giglio, the film is a crime thriller featuring a bank heist, more-wily-than-usual robbers (led by Wesley Snipes in a rare bad-guy role), and your typical mismatched duo: Statham and Phillippe play the odd couple here, the former as recently-suspended veteran detective, Quentin Conners, and the latter as his fresh-faced new partner, Shane Dekker.

Suspension

Yanked back from suspension (the thieves specifically requested for him to be the negotiator), Conners fails to apprehend the bad guys who, as it turns out, have more than mere thievery in mind. He and Drekker embark on a confusing chase, where nothing is as it seems.

Pedestrian and lacking in chemistry between the two leads, "Chaos" endeavors to elevate itself above mere action by making use of the Chaos Theory.

Unfortunately, though you think everything's working smoothly while you're watching the movie, you start seeing the cracks in its structure after walking out of the cinema.

There's the fact that a major bank's security doesn't notice the entry of five big, black-clad men who sport sunglasses and earpieces, and tote suspiciously bulky bags. This is post-9/11 America we're talking about, after all.

Essence

The essence of Chaos Theory is that, things that are seemingly random actually conform to a certain order—that, in fact, chaos *doesn't* really exist.

Though Giglio doesn't succeed on the cerebral level, the movie's action is acceptable. It's fast and unpredictable enough to engage your interest, though you probably won't be blown away by its style or the suspense it cooks up.

As for its stars, Statham is compelling, though his performance is undermined by the thinness of his character, as written—and his British accent is a bit out of place.

Phillippe is convincing as the tenderfoot cop, but his character is equally thin, so it's hard to take him seriously. Snipes as the bad guy doesn't do much, and thus hardly makes an impact.

Nature

From page A4-3

by lust, anger and the false ego, the demon becomes envious of the Supreme Person.

"The envious and mischievous are the lowest among men. They are cast into the ocean of materialism. Gradually, they sink down to the most abominable type of existence.

Gates

"There are three things that lead to the gates of hell: Lust, anger and greed. Every sane man should give them up, because they bring degradation to the soul.

"A man who escapes them performs acts that are conducive to self-realization. Then, he gradually attains his ultimate destination. But, a person who only acts according to his whims will never attain happiness and perfection."

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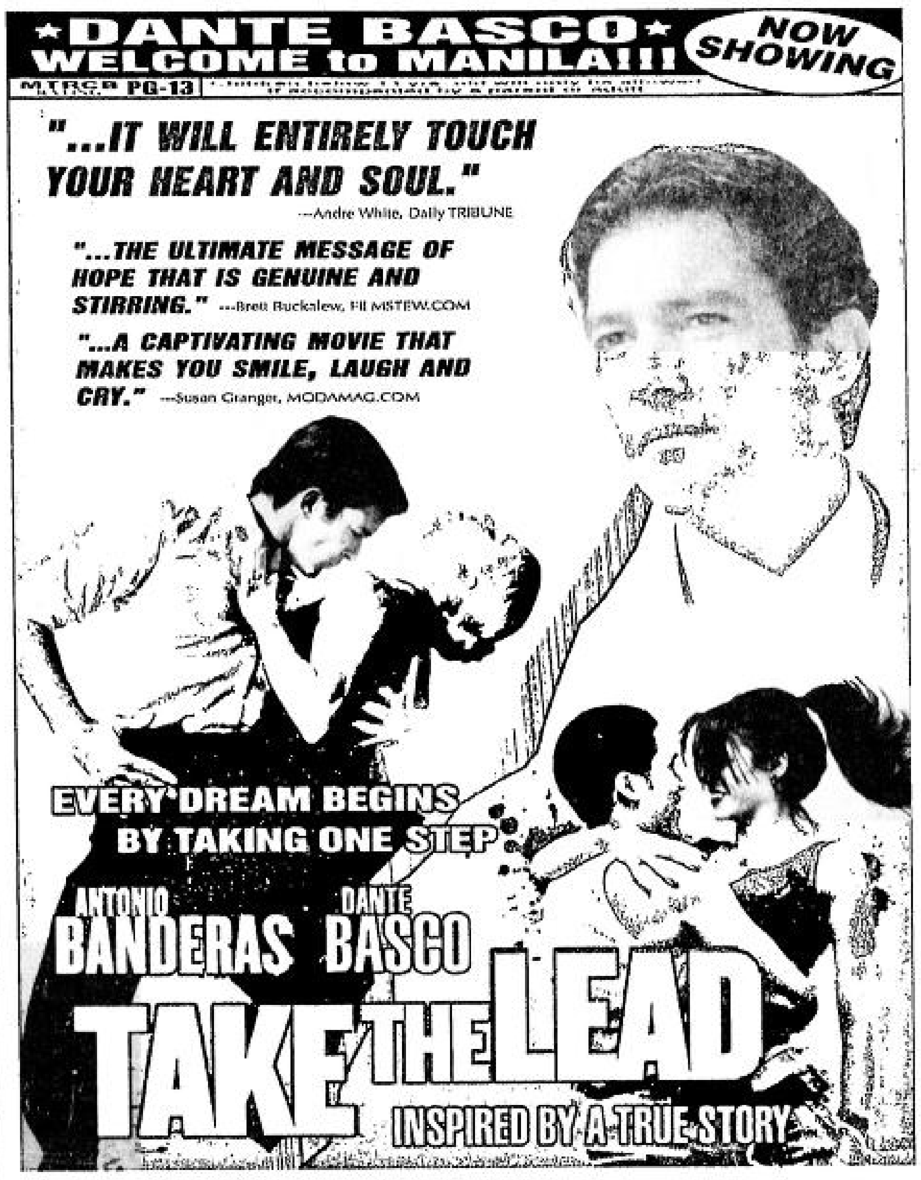
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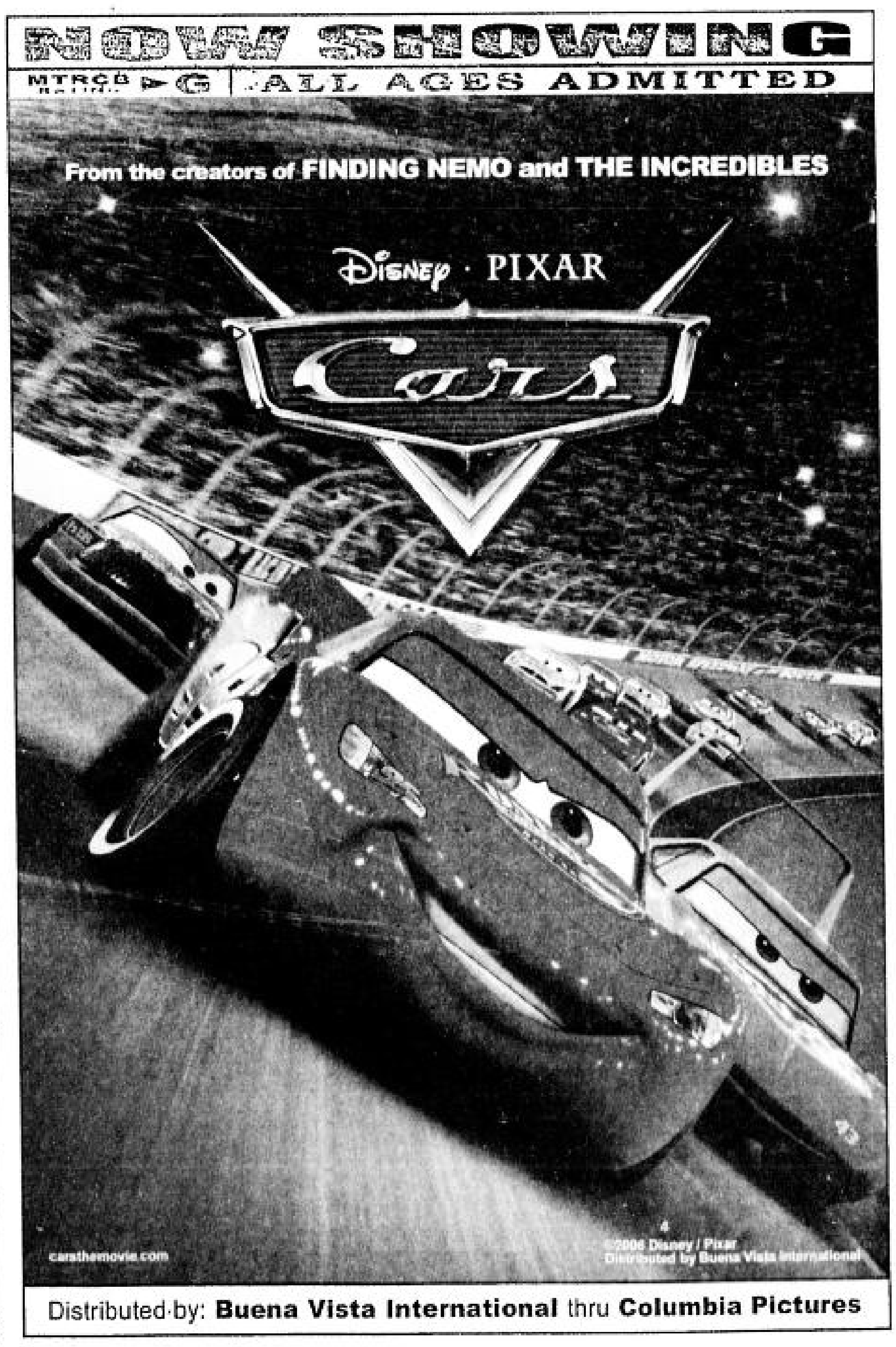
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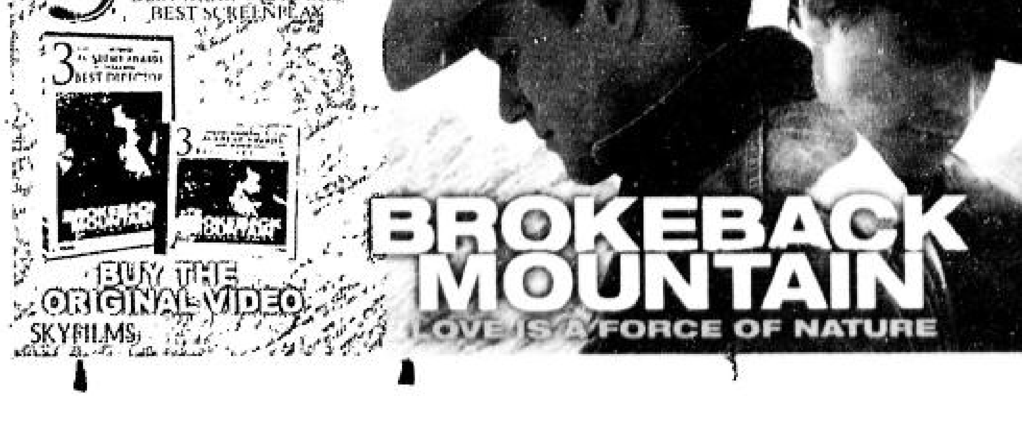
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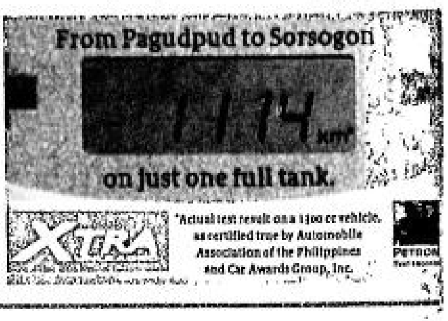
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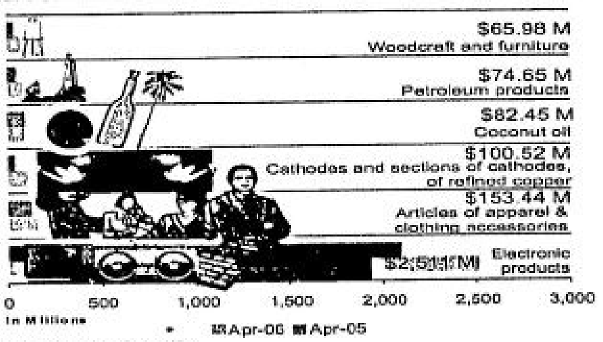
Exports jumped 18.7% in April to $3.85B

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

RP export earnings up by 18.7 percent
(April 2006, in million US dollars)

Electronic products accounted for 65.2 percent of total export revenues in April with $2.511 billion, an increase of 19.7 percent from last year's $2.097 billion. Coming in second were articles of apparel and clothing accessories with $153.44 million, an increase of 19.24 percent from last year's $128.68 million.



Source: National Statistics Office
Kate V. Pedroso PDI Research

4-month total shipments up 15.2% to $14.75B

By Michelle V. Remo

MERCHANDISE EXPORTS GREW 18.7 PERCENT to $3.85 billion in April from a year ago, boosting the country's chances of surpassing its full-year export growth target of 8 percent, as global demand for electronics remained robust.

This brought the January-to-April exports figure to $14.75 billion, up 15.2 percent from the same period last year.

Documents from the National Statistics Office showed that exports were led by electronics, accounting for 65.2 percent of earnings, which grew 19.7 percent year-on-year to $2.51 billion in April.

Dennis Arroyo, director for policy and planning at the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda), said double-digit growth in exports was likely to be seen for the rest of the year given the increasing demand for electronics in various markets abroad.

He noted that the country's electronics industry expected a buildup of inventory in the second half due to a possible pick-up in demand especially for the Christmas season.

Arroyo likewise noted projections made by the US Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA), which said demand for cellular phones and other electronic devices would be on an uptrend this year following last year's slowdown.

Aside from electronics, garments likewise gained substantially from an increasing global demand. Exports of garments grew 19.2 percent to $153.44 million in April.

Other top exports during the month were cathodes of refined copper ($100.52 million), coconut oil ($82.45 million), petroleum products ($74.65 million), woodcraft and furniture ($36.65 million), wiring sets for vehicles, aircraft and ships ($57 million), bananas ($34.27 million), metal components ($23.08 million), and gold ($20.54 million).

EXPORTS/ B3

WHAT'S INSIDE

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Net foreign investments up 11.4% in Q1 /B3

Gov't eyes 11th hour passage of '06 budget /B10

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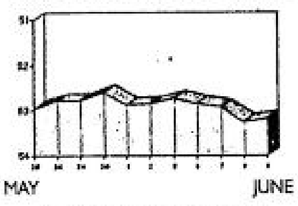

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As of 5 p.m., June 9, 2006

GOLD: **$607.10-607.60**

per ounce Hong Kong, June 9, 2006

STOCK MARKET

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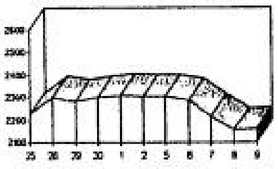


(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares end flat

SHARES ROSE SLIGHTLY YESTERDAY as gains made earlier in the session were eventually wiped out by investors pocketing profit.

The benchmark 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index rose 1.82 points, or 0.1 percent, to 2,159.50, after shedding 6.4 percent in the past three sessions, including a 2.7-percent decline Thursday. The market was up as much as 1.5 percent earlier in the session.

Data showing exports remained strong supported by bargain-hunting in select stocks, but the thin turnover suggested many investors were exercising restraint amid volatile global markets, dealers said. ***(See story on this page.)***

Volume reached 527.35 million shares worth P967.14 million.

"The market initially reacted to that little breather in the US, but investors eventually took the rally earlier in the session as an opportunity to cash in on gains," said DA Market Securities president Nestor Aguila.

They said, however, there was some relief among investors with local and regional markets steadying after another sharp sell-off this week prompted by fears of further hikes in US interest rates to combat inflation.

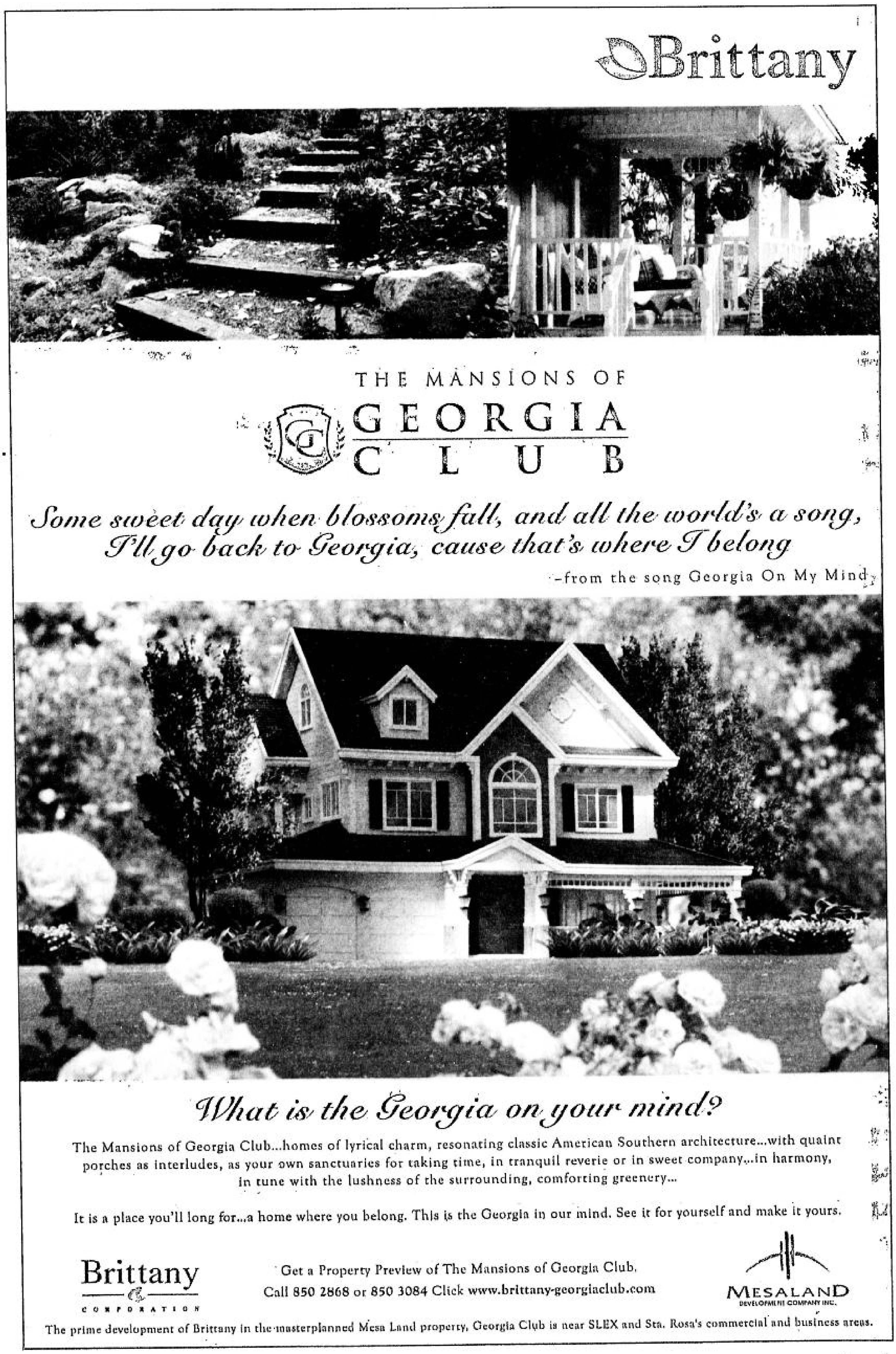
On Thursday, the Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 0.1 percent, its first gain in five sessions.

Stocks that provided a boost to the main index were Globe Telecom, up 3 percent at P855, Ayala Corp., higher by 2.2 percent at P352.50, and Jollibee, which rose 4.6 percent to P34.50.

Capping the market's gains, Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. lost 0.3 percent to close at P1,915, and Ayala Land was down 2.1 percent at P11.75.

Gainers led decliners 39 to 32, while 41 stocks were unchanged.

SHARES/ B3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Net portfolio investments hit $78.9M in May

Five-month inflows dropped to $669.8M from $1.82B in '05

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES MANAGED TO capture $78.9 million in net foreign portfolio inflows in May despite the massive selling of emerging markets' assets, according to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

The net inflows to local stocks, debt paper and bank products for May, however, was less than the $98.7 million registered last year and the $101.2-million in April.

The cumulative net inflows of "hot money"—so called due to its volatile nature—as of May hit $669.8 million, which paled in comparison to the $1.82 billion recorded in the same period last year.

"Factors which could have contributed to the net inflows in May included the positive economic and corporate earnings report, the maintenance by the BSP of its key policy rates, the largest US pension fund CalPERS' raising of the country's ranking in its list of permissible sites and the possible upgrade by Moody's Investor Service of the country's debt rating outlook to stable," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said.

He said, however, that the decline in regional markets, the softening of regional currencies including the peso, concerns on the consequences of rising US interest rates and profit-taking by foreign investors hampered the flow of funds.

"Investment funds reportedly avoided emerging markets in general, including the Philippines," Tetangco said.

Based on BSP data, newly registered portfolio investments for May totaled $663.3 million, 73 percent of which were put in shares of stock listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange.

The gross inflows exceeded the total capital repatriations or outflows of $584.7 million.

For the five-month period, foreign portfolio investments totaled $2.62 billion, while outflows amounted to $1.95 billion.

Of the total portfolio investments from abroad, 77 percent went to PSE-listed stocks, 22 percent to peso-denominated government securities and the remainder went to money market instruments and bank deposits.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo witnesses the signing of the lease agreement between Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority Chairman Feliciano Salonga (second from right), Armand Arreza and Heibei Xintai Jing Niu Glass Manufacturing Co. Ltd. chairman Wang Chang Lin (left). LYN RILLON

Benpres to sell assets to pay debt

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

BENPRES HOLDINGS CORP., THE flagship company of the Lopez family, plans to pay its $400-million debt in 10 years by selling assets and collecting dividends from its subsidiaries.

Benpres president Angel Ong told stockholders yesterday that Benpres has informed its creditors that it expected to receive P15 billion in dividends from key units in power and media to repay its debts.

The dividends will be used to pay $200 million in debt.

In 2005 alone, Benpres received P508 million in dividends from First Philippine Holdings Corp. (FPHC).

Benpres also expects substantial dividends from television network ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. in 2008.

The remaining $200-million debt will be paid through the sale or swap of shares in certain subsidiaries, such as the First Philippine Infrastructure Development Corp.

FPIDC has shares in Manila North Tollways Corp. and Digital Telecommunications Philippines Inc.

Benpres owns 49 percent of FPIDC, which in turn owns 67 percent of MNTC, the operator of the 80-kilometer North Luzon Expressway.

Metro Pacific Corp. earlier said it was in discussions with Benpres to buy the latter's 49-percent interest in FPIDC.

Ong also said Benpres was open to talks regarding its shares in telecommunications unit Bayan Telecommunications Co. Inc. and cable service provider Beyond Cable.

Benpres owns two-thirds of Beyond Cable, and 98 percent of Bayan Telecommunications Holdings Corp., which in turn owns BayanTel.

Ong also said Benpres was willing to sell its 24.5-percent stake in Rockwell Land Corp.

Creditors led by Avenue Asia are set to complete due diligence on Benpres by this month.

Negotiations with creditors are expected to start in the third quarter.

Benpres tapped Australia's Ferrier Hodgson Corporate Advisory (WA) Pty. Ltd. as its financial adviser.

In 2002, Benpres defaulted on principal and interest payments of its long-term debts.

On the same year, it announced a three-pronged plan called the "Balance Sheet Management Plan" that aimed to cut debt by getting key units to repay the debts guaranteed by Benpres, to raise cash through asset sales and to reduce costs by suspending capital investments.

Benpres also said it sold 18.79 million shares of Digitel in May, representing approximately 0.3 percent of Digitel.

Benpres raised P24.5 million from the sale which will be used for working capital.

Mindanao firm to export to Japan

By Christine A. Gaylican

AN AFFILIATE OF EXPORTER Chiquita Unifrutti Philippines Inc., one the country's major banana exporters, has been allowed to export organically grown bananas to Japan.

Sugar Highland Organic Bananas Inc. said in a statement that its bananas were certified organic by Japanese Agricultural Standards, which enforces organic labeling laws.

"After an inspection of the company's pilot farm in Lanao del Sur, the technical team sent by the Japanese Agricultural Standards endorsed Shobi's operations, allowing the company to label their produce as organic Cavendish bananas," the company said.

Organic agricultural produce stamped with the Japanese Agricultural Standards seal, can command premium prices over regular produce in the Japanese market, it added.

Shobi will make its first shipment of organic bananas to Japan by the middle of next year.

"The trend is to have more and more organic produce, and companies like ours are taking advantage of the growing health consciousness of the Japanese consumers," Shobi said. "In the case of fresh bananas, Japan has the highest per capita consumption in the world."

Aside from bananas, the company is also looking at other fruits and vegetables that can be produced organically, including culinary herbs and vegetable salad crops.

Japanese consumers' concern over food poisoning outbreaks, genetically modified corn entering the food chain, the mad cow crisis, and food labeling fraud have been responsible for the big rise in organic food sales, a study made by the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations said.

Demand is outpacing supply in many sectors of the organic food industry.

However, the organic fresh fruit and vegetables market has been affected by the new Japanese standards for organic food.

This resulted in a significant reduction in volumes because many exporters could not meet JAS regulations.

"The market for organic produce in Japan and all over the world, especially in developed regions like the United States and Europe, continues to grow and the scope for expansion of production is there," said FAO.

The FAO noted that in 1999, the market for organic food in the European Union—the world 's largest organic market—was less than 2 percent of total food sales, but predicted that the situation would change as more consumers demand more organic foods on supermarket shelves.

Asian stocks rebound after fall

SINGAPORE—ASIAN SHARES rebounded on Friday from multi-month lows as investors picked up beaten-down shares such as South Korea's Kookmin Bank, while the dollar rose on expectations of higher US interest rates.

Oil prices held steady in early trading, after touching a two-and-half-week low the day before on hopes that the death of al-Qaida's leader in Iraq may help improve oil exports.

The retreat in oil prices gave stocks support, but further gains were seen capped due to the prospect of rising global interest rates and persistent worries about US inflation.

"The indices have been beaten down to a level that looks pretty well low enough for now. The market is waiting for a catalyst to help it turn around and recover," said Koichi Seki, manager at Chuo Securities' sales marketing department.

Tokyo's Nikkei was down 0.26 percent at 14,595.38 by the midday session after earlier trading in positive territory.

The broader TOPIX index was up 0.24 percent at 1,485.79.

The MSCI's index of non-Japan Asian shares was up 0.04 percent by yesterday morning.

Global markets have been buffeted in recent weeks by worries of growing inflationary pressures in the United States just as the economy slows, and Asian markets have been further hit by fears that foreign investors would pull money out of higher risk emerging market assets.

US stock rose modestly on Thursday. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 0.07 percent, and the Nasdaq Composite Index gained 0.3 percent.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng edged up 0.34 percent, tracking recovering global markets.

Cathay Pacific Airways was the top blue-chip gainer after the carrier said it would take over Dragonair in a deal that expands its access to the mainland Chinese market.

Shares in Taiwan open 0.92 percent higher, led by heavyweight tech firms such as TSMC, before falling back, while South Korea's main index also climbed one percent before retreating.

Australia's S&P ASX 200 rose 0.31 percent in a bounce-bank from its biggest one-day slide since 2001, and Singapore's Straits Times Index edged up 0.45 percent.

The dollar held near a one-month high against the euro after rallying on indications that the European Central Bank would be modest in raising interest rates following its latest rise.

Gold traded just above a near-two-month low after the metal had fallen sharply in US trade as the dollar rallied. Spot gold was quoted at $610.00/$611.00 an ounce on Friday compared with $607.50 an ounce in US trade. *Reuters*

PLDT seals PhilWeb acquisition

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST telecommunications firm yesterday completed its acquisition of 20 percent of PhilWeb Corp., boosting its plan to enter into the online gaming business.

In a statement to the stock exchange, the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) said its subsidiary ePLDT Inc. remitted to PhilWeb last June 8 some P427 million as payment for the stake in the firm controlled by Roberto Ongpin.

As a result of the transaction, PLDT said that PhilWeb's board of directors will hold a special meeting to elect ePLDT's three nominee-directors and a vice chairman representing the telecommunications giant.

The deal is expected to give a big boost to online gaming in the country as PLDT's telecommunications resources—including the country's largest cellular phone network—are mated with PhilWeb's gaming franchise from the government.

Talk is also rife that PLDT will proceed to acquire more PhilWeb shares to be able to fully control the online gaming market—a suggestion that Ongpin has already shot down.

He said he was unwilling to sell more PhilWeb shares to PLDT and that the latter can instead buy its relatively illiquid stock through the bourse.

PhilWeb is primarily engaged in Internet-based gaming, through its appointment as principal technology service provider of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor), with which it has a marketing consultancy agreement for Internet sports betting and Internet casino operations.

PhilWeb offers Internet sports betting in over 230 Pagcor Internet sports betting stations (ISBS) and over 40 Internet casino stations nationwide.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of June 9, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	10,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	34	35.5	33	33	355,400
Bank of the Phil. Islands	50.5	51.5	49	49.5	1,167,900
Citystate Savings Bank	20.25	20.25	20.25	20.25	300
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	1,430,000
Equitable Pci Bank Inc.	72	73.5	72	73	157,800
International Exch. Bank	41.5	41.5	41	41	23,600
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	32.5	33.5	32.5	33	442,300
Philippine National Bank	33	33	32	32	37,800
Phil. Savings Bank	39.5	39.5	39	39.5	11,900
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	18	18.25	17.75	18	81,100
Security Bank Corp.	50	50	49	49	1,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	44	44	44	44	2,000
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Filipino Fund Inc.	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	21,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	27	32	27	32	12,200
Manulife Financial Corp.	1750	1750	1720	1720	580
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	210	210	210	210	11,090
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2080	2100	2080	2100	1,500
Ivantage Corp.	1.16	1.2	1.16	1.18	1,180,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	43	43	42	42	726,700
Manila Electric Co. A	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	14,800
Manila Electric Co. B	21.5	21.75	21.5	21.5	538,400
Manila Water Co. Inc.	7.1	7.3	7.1	7.2	3,217,000
Petron Corp.	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.9	4,069,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.92	1.98	1.92	1.98	81,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	10,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23	23.25	23	23.25	45,500
Jollibee Foods Corp.	33	34.5	33	34.5	510,500
Roxas Holdings Inc.	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.65	2,047,000
San Miguel Corp. A	63	63.5	63	63.5	75,300
San Miguel Corp. B	69.5	70	69.5	70	108,800
Universal Robina Corp.	19.25	19.5	19.25	19.5	157,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	200,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.29	610,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.18	1.18	1.16	1.16	1,637,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.55	4.6	4.55	4.6	6,550,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	50,000
CHEMICALS					
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	30,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.075	0.075	0.0725	0.0725	10,900,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	355	365	352.5	352.5	208,690
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	250,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.1	255,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.024	0.024	0.023	0.023	1,100,000
A. Soriano Corp.	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.6	1,243,000
APC Group Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	100,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	4,000,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	1.46	1.46	1.44	1.44	55,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	100,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10	10	10	10	17,600
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1	1.02	1	1	11,570,000
Dmci Holdings Inc.	3.65	3.75	3.6	3.6	1,239,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	3.1	3.1	3.05	3.1	1,225,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	125,000
Pacifica	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	4,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	710,000
SM Investments Corp.	219	223	217	218	101,190
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	200,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	12.25	12.25	11.5	11.75	8,651,400
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	30,000
Belle Corp.	1.04	1.06	1.02	1.04	1,584,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	4,500,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	1.92	1.92	1.92	1.92	10,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.58	0.6	0.58	0.6	12,260,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.03	0.03	0.028	0.028	1,700,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.32	1.38	1.32	1.38	8,009,000
Interport Res. B	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	1,000,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	30,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	2,300,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.48	1.52	1.46	1.5	17,606,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.21	0.21	0.2	0.2	8,510,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	600,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	11	11	10.75	10.75	479,700
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	1,620,000
SM Development Corp.	1.56	1.56	1.54	1.54	53,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.6	7.6	7.3	7.4	12,148,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.065	0.07	600,000
SERVICE					
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	14.25	14.5	14	14.25	29,100
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.18	1.2	1.16	1.2	1,789,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	840	860	840	855	14,830
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.45	3.5	3.35	3.4	3,411,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1920	1940	1915	1915	81,510
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	750,000
Ionics Inc.	2.5	2.5	2.42	2.42	396,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	100,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.048	0.049	0.048	0.049	1,100,000
Philweb Corp.	0.03	0.03	0.029	0.03	41,500,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	2.7	2.75	2.7	2.7	1,155,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	13.75	13.75	13.5	13.5	1,773,600
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.36	1.4	506,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.62	0.65	0.62	0.62	520,000
EDUCATION					
Far Eastern University	1000	1000	1000	1000	890
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	1.9	2	1.9	1.94	485,000
Paxys Inc.	11.25	11.25	10.25	10.5	1,260,300
Philippine Seven Corp.	1.82	3.25	1.82	3.25	6,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0075	0.008	0.0075	0.008	63,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	6.2	6.4	6.2	6.3	540,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	2,300,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.3	0.32	0.3	0.3	14,750,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.022	7,800,000
Omico Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	108,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	3	3.15	2.9	3.05	8,431,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	2.95	3.1	2.9	3.05	17,787,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	27	27	27	27	49,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	630,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	2,200,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	89,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	10,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	455,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	60,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	14	15.5	14	15	753,600
PREFERRED					
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	6,000

DISCLOSURES

THE BOARD of directors of **Petroenergy Resources Corp.** has approved the declaration of a 20-percent cash dividend, amounting to P21.06 million payable on July 26 for stockholders as of June 30.

* * *

ALFREDO B. Benitez, Willy N. Ocier, A. Bayani K. Tan and Edmundo L. Tan have been elected directors of **Sinophil Corp.** on June 8. Jose T. Gabionza, Ricardo Leong and Jerry C. Tiu have likewise been elected independent directors.

* * *

OSCAR M. Lopez, Manuel M. Lopez, Eugenio Lopez III, Felipe B. Alfonso and Angel S. Ong have been elected directors of **Benpres Holdings Corp.** on June 9. Vicente T. Paterno and Washington T. Sycip have been elected independent directors.

Compiled by Kate Pedroso, PDI Research

CURRENCIES

June 9, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.790264	1.000000	53.0340
Japan	Yen	0.006925	0.008763	0.4647
United Kingdom	Pound	1.456456	1.843000	97.7417
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.101816	0.128838	6.8328
Switzerland	Franc	0.641396	0.811622	43.0436
Canada	Dollar	0.704272	0.891186	47.2632
Singapore	Dollar	0.495556	0.627077	33.2564
Australia	Dollar	0.587338	0.743218	39.4158
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.096302	2.652661	140.6812
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.210714	0.266638	14.1409
Brunei	Dollar	0.494007	0.625117	33.1525
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000084	0.000106	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.020563	0.026021	1.3800
UAE	Dirham	0.215266	0.272398	14.4464
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.265400	67.1092
ArgentinaPeso	0.256329	0.324359	17.2021	
Brazil	Real	0.348595	0.441112	23.3939
Denmark	Kroner	0.134079	0.169664	8.9980
India	Rupee	0.017244	0.021820	1.1572
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.215624	0.272851	14.4704
Mexico	New Peso	0.069376	0.087789	4.6558
New Zealand	Dollar	0.494874	0.626213	33.2106
Norway	Kroner	0.127573	0.161431	8.5613
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013153	0.016644	0.8827
South Africa	Rand	0.116592	0.147536	7.8244
Korea	Won	0.000829	0.001049	0.0556
Sweden	Kroner	0.108295	0.137037	7.2676
Syria	Pound	0.015224	0.019264	1.0216
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024340	0.030800	1.6334
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000366	0.000466	0.0247

Net foreign investments up 11.4% in 1st quarter

BSP sees $1.4B in inflows this year on improved investor confidence

CITYPLACE PROJECT
Manila City Mayor Lito Atienza Jr. and Megaworld Corp. chair and president Andrew Tan shake hands after signing the memorandum of agreement on joint-venture Cityplace. The leading property developer has entered into a joint venture with the city government to develop a P7.2-billion mixed-use complex in Binondo, Manila.

By Doris C. Dumlao

NET FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT flows to the Philippines rose by 11.4 percent in the first quarter to $430 million from a year ago, mostly channeled to the banking, manufacturing, construction and real estate sectors.

Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday reported that for the month of March, the country received $75 million in fresh foreign investments due mainly to net capital infusion in long-term equity investments, which rose by 47.3 percent.

The inflows in March, however, were smaller than the $104 million registered in the same month last year.

Unlike portfolio inflows that are very volatile, foreign direct investments represent equity infusions in business ventures that are usually labor- and capital-intensive.

"The continued strength of FDIs in the first quarter of 2006 was traced to the reversal in the 'other capital' account to a net inflow of $224 million," Tetangco said.

The "other capital" account represents inter-company accounts between investee companies and their corresponding foreign direct investors.

"The reinvested earnings account likewise grew by 29.4 percent as foreign banks preferred to retain their earnings in their local branches," Tetangco said.

The net equity capital, while lower compared to the same quarter last year, recorded a net inflow of $184 million.

"Equity placements, originating mainly from the United States and Japan, were infused in the following sectors: Manufacturing, construction, real estate and financial intermediation," Tetangco said.

In manufacturing, the foreign direct investments benefited producers of chemical and health products and airconditioning systems, he added.

For the full year, the BSP expects the country to generate $1.6 billion in net foreign investment inflows due to improving investor confidence, buoyed by the better fiscal position of the national government and the country's strong economic fundamentals.

PNOC unit to focus on alternative fuels

By Abigail L. Ho

SUPPORTING THE GOVERNMENT'S TARGET to achieve energy self-sufficiency, Philippine National Oil Co.'s petrochemical subsidiary has decided to focus on the development of alternative fuels.

During yesterday's stockholders' meeting, PNOC Petrochemical Development Corp. amended its principal mandate and changed its name to PNOC Alternative Fuels Corp.

The new PNOC subsidiary, which would be headed by outgoing Energy Undersecretary Peter Anthony Abaya, will spearhead the development of alternative fuels in the country, particularly jatropha-based biodiesel.

President Macapagal-Arroyo had earlier announced the allocation of a P1-billion fund for jatropha-based biodiesel research and development.

PNOC Energy Development Corp. had also started a pilot project on jatropha development, earmarking P1.6 million for a jatropha propagation project to be undertaken in cooperation with the Dacongcogon Producers Cooperative Marketing Association and D1 Oils Asia Pacific Inc.

Initially, the jatropha plant, more commonly known as *tuba-tuba* in the Philippines, will be planted on a 5-hectare land in Kabankalan City, Negros Occidental.

While taking charge of alternative fuels development in the country, PAFC will still be responsible for the development of the country's petrochemical industry.

PNOC president and chief executive Eduardo Mañalac earlier said that there was a need to "integrate" the local petrochemical industry to ensure its long-term growth.

Instead of just focusing on building a naphtha-cracker plant, he said emphasis should be given on possibly producing the feedstock here.

Apart from the name change, the former PPDC and now PAFC welcomed new people to its board, including Abaya as president and chief executive and former Presidential Management Staff and Philippine Information Agency head Renato Velasco as chair.

New directors include Augusto Catindig, Victor Corpus and Doroteo Aguila.

SYCIP SALAZAR HERNANDEZ & GATMAITAN
-presents-
MANDATORY CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION
Compliance Program (Weekly Course) - Thirty-Six (36) Units
SyCipLaw Auditorium, 17th Floor, SSHG Law Centre, 105 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City

Friday, July 7, 2006	
MCLE Credit Hours*	Subject
Three (3) Units 8:00 to 11:00 AM	A Survey of Supreme Court Decisions on Commercial Law in 2005 (Updates on Jurisprudence)
Three (3) Units 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM	Back to Basics in Ethics (Legal Ethics)
Three (3) Units 3:00 to 6:00 PM	A Legal Perspective – Opportunities, Challenges and Risks for Foreign Investors in the Philippine Mining Industry (MCLE-prescribed subject Land and Economics)
Friday, July 14, 2006	
MCLE Credit Hours*	Subject
Three (3) Units 8:00 to 11:00 AM	Update on Labor Law Recent Jurisprudence, Laws, Rules and Regulations (Updates on Laws and Jurisprudence)
Three (3) Units 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM	Rules and Cases on Bar Discipline (Legal Ethics)
Three (3) Units 3:00 to 6:00 PM	Foreign Investments in the Philippines (MCLE-prescribed subject Transnational Business Transactions)
Friday, July 21, 2006	
MCLE Credit Hours*	Subject
Four (4) Units 8:00 to 12:00 AM	Pleading Writing and Oral Advocacy
Two (2) Units 1:00 AM to 3:00 PM	Problem Areas and Issues Affecting Philippine Construction Arbitration (Alternative Dispute Resolution)
Three (3) Units 3:00 to 6:00 PM	A Survey of Supreme Court Decisions on Civil Law in 2005 (Updates on Jurisprudence)
Friday, July 28, 2006	
MCLE Credit Hours*	Subject
Four (4) Units 8:00 to 12:00 AM	Trial and Pre-Trial Skills in Criminal and Maritime Cases (Trial and Pre-Trial Skills)
Two (2) Units 1:00 to 3:00 PM	Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (International Law)
Three (3) Units 3:00 to 6:00 PM	Alternative Dispute Resolution in the Philippines

* Rule 5, Sec. 1, Bar Matter 850 – Credit hours are computed based on actual time spent in an educational activity in hours to the nearest one quarter hour reported in decimals. (The schedule of each session includes registration and break.)

(1) (a) Attendance at more than 2 days of sessions or the full course of 4 days: P10,000
(b) Attendance at no more than 2 days of sessions P6,000
(c) Attendance at no more than 1 day of sessions P3,000
(d) Attendance at any lecture will be considered attendance for a full day session for purposes of the registration fee.
(e) For item (a) above, a 10% discount will be given to early registrants (those who register and pay on or before Friday, June 23, 2006), clients of the Firm, and SyCip alumni, and a 15% discount for a group of 10 or more participants who shall register and pay simultaneously. In case more than one type of discount is applicable, only one type of discount can be availed of.
(2) The Registration Fee includes morning and afternoon snacks, lunch, lecture materials, and the MCLE Certificate of Attendance.
(3) Payment should be in cash or check payable to SyCip Salazar Hernandez & Gatmaitan. Except for the early registrants, all check payments must be delivered at least 5 working days prior to the date of the first lecture to the SyCip Salazar Hernandez & Gatmaitan Office, 4th Floor 105 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.
(4) We reserve the right to reschedule any or all of the lectures if warranted by reasons beyond our control.

For more information, please call Ms. Joyce L. Rozul at 817-98-11 or send your inquiries by fax to 817-38-96, or mcle@syciplaw.com

Exports jumped . . .

From page B1

"Growth in exports was getting more broad-based," Arroyo said, explaining that the country was gradually reducing its heavy dependence on electronics for its export earnings as well as on the United States as a major export market.

He said that the Netherlands topped the list of export markets in April, beating the United States, which used to be the leading export destination of Philippine exports.

The Netherlands cornered 19.1 percent of total Philippine exports in April, accounting for $734.41 million worth of total export receipts. It was followed by Japan, which had a 16.6-percent share of Philippine exports and accounted for $640.58 million of total. The United States came in third with $612.82 million or 15.9 percent.

Other top markets were Singapore ($297.34 million); China ($287.81 million); Hong Kong ($271.26 million); Malaysia ($184.17 million); Germany ($122.04 million); Korea ($120.57 million), and Taiwan ($119.86 million).

Despite double-digit growth in exports, Arroyo said the government was not considering, at least for now, a revision of the 8-percent expansion target in exports this year. He added that economic managers have yet to decide whether current developments should merit an increase in the projected gross domestic product for 2006.

GDP, a common tool used to measure a country's economy, is the sum of all goods produced and services rendered in a given period. The government has set its GDP growth target for this year at only 5.5 to 6.2 percent.

Shares end flat

From page B1

Aguila said investors also sought shelter ahead of the long weekend. Financial markets will be closed Monday for a national holiday.

Financial markets worldwide have been bracing for another round of increase in US interest rates, and fund managers have been realigning their investment portfolios to the detriment of equities markets like the Philippines, which enjoyed a strong run-up earlier in the year due to strong inflows.

"The market is due for a technical rebound after the three-day sell-off which was overdone. However, we are still not betting on a sustainable recovery at this point," said James Lago of Westlink Global Equities.

He said local investors were keeping an eye on future moves by foreign fund managers after they rushed out of risky assets amid concerns US interest rates would rise further as the Federal Reserve moves to tame inflation.

Lago said those fund managers could window-dress portfolios before the end of the month.

AP, AFP

PNB
ASSET MANAGEMENT SECTOR
We manage for best value.

PUBLIC AUCTION
JULY 13, 2006 • THURSDAY • 2:00 PM • EAST ASIA ROYAL HOTEL, National Hway Lagao, Gen. Santos City, South Cotabato

ANTIPAS
LOT 1 - LOT W/ IMPRVT
L.A. 42,861.00 sqm.
Lot 349 Homestead Road, Sitio Malasin, Brgy. Malatab,
Minimum Bid Price 225,000.00

KABACAN
LOT 2 - AGRILAND
L.A. 79,547.00 sqm.
Lot # 875 Brgy. Pisan
Minimum Bid Price 239,000.00

KIDAPAWAN
LOT 3 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 375+375=750 sqm.
Lots 3 & 4, Block 2 Pascual Subd., Singao,
Minimum Bid Price : 300,000.00

LOT 4 - LOT W/ IMPRVT
L.A. 80.00 sqm.
F.A. 89.00 sqm.
Lot 2953-A-2 #150 Quezon Blvd.,
Minimum Bid Price 390,000.00

LOT 5 - LOT W/ IMPRVT
L.A. 148.00 sqm.
F.A. 108.00 sqm.
Lot 10-A-14-B Lumogdang Subd.,
Minimum Bid Price 290,000.00

LOT 6 - LOT W/ IMPRVT
L.A. 873.00 sqm.
F.A. 103.00 sqm.
Lot No. 3323 M. Cuenco St.
Minimum Bid Price 365,000.00

LOT 7 - LOT W/ IMPRVT
L.A. 300.00 sqm.
F.A. 108.00 sqm.
Lot 10-B-4-D-1-W Angle Subd.,
Minimum Bid Price : 310,000.00

LOT 8 - LOT W/ IMPRVT
L.A. 532.00 sqm.
Lot 10-B-1-I-10-E-6-A Mundog Subd.,
Minimum Bid Price : 230,000.00

LOT 9 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 2,957.00 sqm.
Lot 2-S Guava & Langaka Sts., Madrid Subd., Pob.
Minimum Bid Price : 7,150,000.00

LOT 10 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 1,470 sqm.
Lots 2-R-3-G; 2-R-3-H & 2-R-3-I Anahaw St., Pob.
Minimum Bid Price : 4,520,000.00

LOT 11 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 466.00 sqm.
Lot 2-P-2 Anahaw St. Pob
Minimum Bid Price 1,505,000.00

MAGPET
LOT 12 - LOT W/ IMPRVT
L.A. 375.00 sqm.
F.A. 74.00 sqm.
Lot 414+B-1-A-8 Saniol Subd., Magpet,
Minimum Bid Price : 156,000.00

LOT 13 - LOT W/ IMPRVT
L.A. 264.00 sqm.
F.A. 107.00 sqm.
Lot 8, Blk 8 Matas St., Magpet,
Minimum Bid Price 80,000.00

MAKILALA
LOT 14 - LOT W/ IMPRVT
L.A. 360.00 sqm.
F.A. 76.00 sqm.
Lot 4-P-8 Gasatan Subd., Purok 8, Pob. Makilala,
Minimum Bid Price 250,000.00

MATALAM
LOT 15 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 51,371.00 sqm.
Lot 2 Blk 2, National Highway, Brgy. Manubuan, Matalam, North
Minimum Bid Price 1,530,000.00

M'LANG
LOT 16 - LOT W/ IMPRVT
L.A. 833.00 sqm.
F.A. 102.00 sqm.
Lot 3678 Burgos St. Pob. M'Lang,
Minimum Bid Price : 295,000.00

LOT 17 - LOT W/ IMPRVT
L.A. 1,423.00 sqm.
F.A. 78.00 sqm.
Lot 10097-A Bandiola Subd., Brgy. Inas, M'Lang,
Minimum Bid Price 623,000.00

TULUNAN
LOT 18 - LOT W/ IMPRVT
L.A. 597.00 sqm.
F.A. 12.00 sqm.
Lot 2817 Mabini St. Pob.
Minimum Bid Price 235,000.00

LOT 19 - LOT W/ IMPRVT
L.A. 619.00 sqm.
F.A. 147.00 sqm.
Lot 2925 Pob. Tulunan,
Minimum Bid Price 405,000.00

LOT 20 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A. 609+618=1,227 sqm.
Lot 3300; Lot 3301 Magsaysay And Burgos Sts., Pob. Tulunan,
Minimum Bid Price 494,000.00

MAASIM
LOT 21 - LOT W/ IMPRVTS
L.A. 327.00 sqm.
F.A. 39.00 sqm.
Lot 1-H Municipal Circuit Rd., Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price 96,000.00

GENERAL SANTOS
LOT 22 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 4,574.00 sqm.
Lot 3-B Silway-Makar Road, Labangal, Gen San City
Minimum Bid Price 5,125,000.00

LOT 23 - LOT W/ IMPRVTS
L.A. 690.00 sqm.
F.A. 126.00 sqm.
Lot 10 Blk 30 Purok San Vicente, Espina Subd., Labangal, General Santos City
Minimum Bid Price 450,000.00

LOT 24 - LOT W/ IMPRVTS
L.A. 9,564.00 sqm.
F.A. 157.00 sqm.
Lot 628-A-1 Along Guinto St., Brgy. San Isidro, General Santos City
Minimum Bid Price 3,690,000.00

LOT 25 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 14,170.00 sqm.
Lot A-2 1St Bomo, San Isidro, General Santos City
Minimum Bid Price : 1,985,000.00

LOT 26 - LOT W/ IMPRVTS
L.A. 4,528.00 sqm.
Lot 2 Purok 2, Buayan, General Santos City
Minimum Bid Price : 710,000.00

LOT 27 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A. 2,105.00 sqm.
Lot 1-D Silway- Makar Road, Labangal, Gen San City
Minimum Bid Price : 1,730,000.00

LOT 28 - LOT W/ IMPRVTS
L.A. 540.00 sqm.
F.A. 201.00 sqm.
Lot 12 Blk 1, Dbp Compound, Lagao, General Santos City
Minimum Bid Price : 1,280,000.00

LOT 29 - LOT W/ IMPRVTS
L.A. 277.00 sqm.
F.A. 53.00 sqm.
Lot 893-B-4-B-7-B-7-E Morales Subd., City Heights
Minimum Bid Price 240,000.00

LOT 30 - LOT W/ IMPRVT
L.A. 450.00 sqm.
F.A. 216.00 sqm.
Lot No. 5030 Camachili St., Gen. Santos
Minimum Bid Price : 1,565,000.00

LOT 31 - LOT W/ IMPRVT
L.A. 191.00 sqm.
Lot 4-A Sta. Cruz And San Juan Sts. Gen. Santos City
Minimum Bid Price 210,000.00

LOT 32 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 8,898.00 sqm.
Lot H Purok 2, Buayan, General Santos City
Minimum Bid Price 580,000.00

LOT 33 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 476.00 sqm.
Lot 4092 Cagampang Street, General Santos City
Minimum Bid Price 2,860,000.00

LOT 34 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 1,505.00 sqm.
Lot A-3-E Rivas Subd., Brgy. Calumpang, General Santos City
Minimum Bid Price 305,200.00

LOT 35 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 19,973.00 sqm.
Lot 750-B Kiman Rd. Brgy. Mabuhay, General Santos City
Minimum Bid Price 1,840,000.00

LOT 36 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 19,974.00 sqm.
Lot 750-E Kiman Rd. Brgy. Mabuhay,General Santos City
Minimum Bid Price 1,840,000.00

LOT 37 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 10,000.00 sqm.
Lot 1-B-9 Brgy. Tambler, Gen San City
Minimum Bid Price 6,000,000.00

LOT 38 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 3,979.00 sqm.
Lot 20-D Bansil Subd., Tambler, General Santos City
Minimum Bid Price 1,275,000.00

LOT 39 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 6,799.00 sqm.
Lot 25-A Fronting Lot 39 Brgy. Fatima, Tambler, General Santos City
Minimum Bid Price : 2,175,000.00

LOT 40 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 461.00 sqm.
Lot 21-I-5-E Bansil Subd., Tambler, General Santos City
Minimum Bid Price 170,000.00

LOT 41 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 10,000.00 sqm.
Lot 20-B Bansil Subd., Tambler, General Santos City
Minimum Bid Price : 3,200,000.00

LOT 42 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 8,461.00 sqm.
Lot 19-C-2-B-1 Bansil Subd., Tambler, General Santos City
Minimum Bid Price 2,440,000.00

LOT 43 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 23,331.00 sqm.
Lot 26-B-2-D Brgy. Tambler, General Santos City
Minimum Bid Price : 4,250,000.00

LOT 44 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 476.00 sqm.
Lot 4092, Cagampang St., Gen. Santos
Minimum Bid Price : 2,860,000.00

LOT 45 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 23,331.00 sqm.
Lot 26-B-2-D Brgy. Tambler, Gen. Santos
Minimum Bid Price 4,250,000.00

POLOMOLOK
LOT 46 - LOT W/ IMPRVTS
L.A. 568.00 sqm.
F.A. 165.00 sqm.
Lot 6 Blk 6 Cannery Housing Subd., Polomolok, South
Minimum Bid Price 770,000.00

LOT 47 - LOT W/ IMPRVTS
L.A. 300.00 sqm.
F.A. 42.00 sqm.
Lot 6-Z-9-C-4-A-5 Rañadasubd., Polomolok, South
Minimum Bid Price 105,000.00

LOT 48 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 300.00 sqm.
Lot 13 Blk 2 Sanchez Subd., Polomolok, South
Minimum Bid Price 120,000.00

LOT 49 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 300.00 sqm.
Lot 9 Blk. 2 Sanchez Subd., Polomolok, South
Minimum Bid Price 120,000.00

LOT 50 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 300.00 sqm.
Lot 15 Blk 2 Sanchez Subd., Polomolok, South
Minimum Bid Price 120,000.00

STO. NIÑO
LOT 51 - LOT W/ IMPRVT
L.A. 309.00 sqm.
F.A. 167.00 sqm.
Lot 1382-B-8-K-1 Calanza Subd., Pob. Sto. Niño, South Cotabato
Minimum Bid Price 290,000.00

LOT 52 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 202.00 sqm.
Lot 10 Blk 2 Eborde Subd., Poblacion Sto. Niño South
Minimum Bid Price 50,000.00

LOT 53 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 202.00 sqm.
Lot 11 Blk 2 Eborde Subd., Poblacion Sto. Niño, South
Minimum Bid Price 50,000.00

LOT 54 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 201.00 sqm.
Lot 12 Blk 2 Eborde Subd., Poblacion Sto. Niño, South
Minimum Bid Price 50,000.00

LOT 55 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 201.00 sqm.
Lot 9 Blk 2 Eborde Subd., Poblacion Sto. Niño, South
Minimum Bid Price 50,000.00

LOT-56 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 200.00 sqm.
Lot 1383-G-4 Eborde Subd., Sto. Nino South
Minimum Bid Price 50,000.00

LOT 57 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 974.00 sqm.
Lot 1383-E-5 Eborde Subd., Sto. Nino South
Minimum Bid Price 190,000.00

LOT 58 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 200.00 sqm.
Lot 1383-G-5 Eborde Subd., Sto. Nino South
Minimum Bid Price : 50,000.00

LOT 59 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 200.00 sqm.
Lot 1383-G-3 Eborde Subd., Sto. Nino South
Minimum Bid Price : 50,000.00

LOT 60 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 200.00 sqm.
Lot 1383-G-I Eborde Subd., Sto. Nino South
Minimum Bid Price 50,000.00

LOT 61 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 200.00 sqm.
Lot 1383-G-2 Eborde Subd., Sto. Nino South
Minimum Bid Price 50,000.00

LOT 62 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 400.00 sqm.
Lot 1383-G-9 Eborde Subd., Sto. Nino South
Minimum Bid Price 100,000.00

LOT 63 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 200.00 sqm.
F.A. sqm.
Lot 11 Blk 3 Eborde Subd, Poblacion, Sto. Niño South
Minimum Bid Price 50,000.00

LOT 64 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 201.00 sqm.
F.A. sqm.
Lot 5 Blk 3 Eborde Subd, Poblacion, Sto. Niño South
Minimum Bid Price 50,000.00

LOT 65 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 201.00 sqm.
F.A. sqm.
Lot 9 Blk. 3 Eborde Subd, Poblacion, Sto. Niño South
Minimum Bid Price 50,000.00

LOT 66 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 191.00 sqm.
F.A. sqm.
Lot 2 Blk 6 Eborde Subd, Poblacion, Sto. Niño South
Minimum Bid Price : 50,000.00

LOT 67 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 380.00 sqm.
Lot 1322-B-11-J-4-E Parian Subd.,Pob. Sto. Nino, South
Minimum Bid Price : 110,000.00

LOT 68 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 300.00 sqm.
F.A. 300.00 sqm.
Lot No. 1320-I Poblacion, Sto Nino South
Minimum Bid Price 240,000.00

TUPI
LOT 69 - LOT W/ IMPRVTS
L.A. 520.00 sqm.
F.A. 130.00 sqm.
Lot 78 Nat'l. Highway, Purok 13, Poblacion, Tupi, South
Minimum Bid Price 765,000.00

ISULAN
LOT 70 - LOT W/ IMPRVTS
L.A. 600+600=1200 sqm.
F.A. 99.00 sqm.
Lot 580-B-1-B & 580-B-1-C, Isulan, Sultan Kudarat
Minimum Bid Price 490,000.00

LOT 71 - LOT W/ IMPRVTS
L.A. 700.00 sqm.
F.A. 102.00 sqm.
Lot 6218 Isulan, Sultan Kudarat
Minimum Bid Price 1,365,000.00

LOT 72 - LOT W/ IMPRVT
L.A. 3,231.00 sqm.
Lot 1877-B Kalawag I Ext., Isulan, Sultan Kudarat
Minimum Bid Price 440,000.00

LOT 73 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 1,491.00 sqm.
643 Kalawag I, Isulan, Sultan Kudarat
Minimum Bid Price 635,000.00

LOT 74 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 600.00 sqm.
321-B-2-B-1-H-3 Kalawag Ii, Isulan, Sultan Kudarat
Minimum Bid Price 155,000.00

LOT 75 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 203.00 sqm.
Lot 452-C-8-C, Brgy. Sampao, Isulan, Sultan Kudarat
Minimum Bid Price 75,000.00

LOT 76 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 440.00 sqm.
Lot 262-A-2-E, Purok Capitol East, Brgy. Sampao, Isulan, Sultan Kudarat
Minimum Bid Price : 150,000.00

LOT 77 - LOT W/ IMPRVT
L.A. 402+650=1,052 sqm.
3-F-4 & 3-G-1 Nat'l. Hi-Way, Poblacion, Isulan, Sultan Kudarat
Minimum Bid Price 5,050,000.00

PRES. QUIRINO
LOT 78 - LOT W/ IMPRVT
L.A. 360+450+450=1,260 sqm.
Lot 763-B-16, Lot 763-B-15, Lot 763-B-14, Purok Capitar, Pob., Pres. Quirino, Sultan Kudarat
Minimum Bid Price . 1,555,000.00

LOT 79 - LOT W/ IMPRVT
L.A. 751.00 sqm.
Lot 763-B-24 Poblacion, Pres. Quirino, Sultan Kudarat
Minimum Bid Price 240,000.00

TACURONG
LOT 80 - LOT W/ IMPRVTS
L.A. 388.00 sqm.
F.A. 84.00 sqm.
Lot 6744-F-4, San Pablo, Tacurong, Sultan Kudarat
Minimum Bid Price 320,000.00

LOT 81 - LOT W/ IMPRVTS
L.A. 5,000.00 sqm.
F.A. 420.00 sqm.
Lot 566-A-1 Buenaflor, Tacurong City, Sultan Kudarat
Minimum Bid Price 5,375,000.00

LOT 82 - LOT W/ IMPRVT
L.A. 592.00 sqm.
F.A. 67.00 sqm.
Lot 500-A-1-F, Buenaflor Subd., Tacurong City
Minimum Bid Price . 280,000.00

LOT 83 - LOT W/ IMPRVTS
L.A. 375.00 sqm.
F.A. 75.00 sqm.
Lot 619-J-7-F-2, Purok Sampaguita, New Isabela, Tacurong City
Minimum Bid Price 230,000.00

LOT 84 - LOT W/ IMPRVT
L.A. 12,345.00 sqm.
F.A. 91.00 sqm.
Lot 222 Brgy. New Carmen, Tacurong City
Minimum Bid Price : 1,755,000.00

LOT 85 - LOT W/ IMPRVT
L.A. 716+720+723=2159 sqm.
Lot 26/27/28, Brgy. Katungal, Tacurong City
Minimum Bid Price : 435,000.00

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Child abuse 'hidden' problem in schools

I HATE SCHOOL!

By Tessa R. Salazar

BEING REGULARLY subjected to embarrassment, compared unfavorably to another child, scolded and shouted at in front of the class.

These are some of the most common forms of child abuse in schools that a group of Philippine psychiatrists has identified.

The 30-member Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists of the Philippines (Cappi), in a report, says these "little acts…, when put together, damage the self-esteem of the child, and could stunt the emotional growth of the child."

Public, private schools

Informal surveys by the Cappi from clinical referrals by child psychiatrists showed that there was no significant difference in child abuse incidents in public and private schools. They also showed that the most vulnerable children were those aged 7 to 9 years.

"Child abuse, in general, is a 'hidden' phenomenon. We don't exactly know how large the problem is, but we [use] figures from available statistics," said Dr. Georgina Gozo-Oliver, Cappi secretary.

500-800 cases

The Cappi estimates that about 500 to 800 child abuse cases are committed by teachers each year.

The estimate comes from Department of Social Welfare and Development figures that there was an average of 10,000 reported child abuse cases per year from 1998 to 2004.

The group also used figures from the Philippine General Hospital which showed that 5 percent to 8 percent of child abuse perpetrators referred to its child protection units in 2005 were teachers.

"Doing a little math, with 10,000 cases per year and 5 percent to 8 percent [of the perpetrators being teachers], that's about 500 to 800 child abuse cases committed by teachers per year," said Oliver during a recent media forum.

According to the Cappi survey, 50 percent of child abuse perpetrators were teachers, while a small number involved janitors, bus drivers and other school personnel.

The Cappi said this was not surprising because students spend more time with teachers than with anybody else in school.

More research

"We're not here to persecute teachers. [What] we would like to say is that it is happening, and that it shouldn't be happening," Oliver said.

She said more research was needed to explain why children are abused in schools. But part of the problem were the children themselves. These were children who could not be controlled due to hyperactivity, aggressiveness or stubbornness and those who were perceived to be physically and mentally weak.

Dr. Cornelio G. Banaag, Cappi director, said the present ratio of 1 teacher to 40 students in private schools and 1 teacher to 60 to 80 students in public schools could also contribute to child abuse.

"How can a teacher handle 40 to 70 students effectively? The teacher is stressed. [When] stressed, he or she may respond in an inappropriate way," said Banaag.

The impact of abuse on a child depends on several factors, including his age, his/her feeling of helplessness, the way the people around help him/her cope, who the perpetrator is, and the severity of the abuse, Banaag said.

School phobia

"Children are by nature resilient, but some are more vulnerable and can't recover. I know of some children who don't want to go to school anymore because they were embarrassed by their teachers. This is called school phobia, [and it is] triggered by an abusive experience," Banaag said.

Oliver said child abuse in schools can be prevented in many ways. For one, teacher training should consider the teachers' emotional well-being. Parents-teachers associations can also help by reporting on the learning environment.

"Abuses should be recognized by the child, the teacher, principal and school personnel," said Oliver.

"A teacher should be aware if he or she has an inclination to abuse a student. And teachers should monitor each other," she said.

Agent of agreement?

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

THERE'S AN INTERESTING NEW study from researchers at the University of Queensland and the Queensland University of Technology. According to psychologist Pearl Martin and her colleagues, under the right circumstances, caffeine could make people more receptive to alternative viewpoints.

The reasoning behind the theory involves stimulant properties of caffeine. Previous studies have shown that moderate caffeine consumption, say the equivalent of two cups of coffee, affects one's ability to focus and handle more complex information processing such as solving math problems or multitasking.

As the stimulant works on the brain, the mind finds itself more likely to focus on a topic and carefully consider it instead of superficially thinking about the issue. This increases a person's understanding of the issue and makes one more open and possibly even preferring opposing viewpoints.

Conversely, if caffeine makes a person consider arguments more by focusing his attention, then he is also less likely to change his mind once he has ingested the compound.

Caffeine-laced orange juice

The researchers developed two experiments involving nearly 150 college students who were made to drink a glass of orange juice that may or may not have been laced with caffeine.

For the first experiment, about 70 female students filled out several questionnaires regarding their stances on a number of topics. They were given a text and then divided into two groups. One group was asked to read the text and recall it later on. The other group was asked to cross out the letter "o" throughout the entire text. Upon completion of the tasks, they were asked to fill out a brief questionnaire regarding their attitudes toward the statements in the text and to state whether or not they thought they drunk the orange juice with caffeine.

Martin et al. found that in the group distracted by the task of crossing out the letter "o," the presence or absence of caffeine had no impact: their answers at the end of the experiment did not differ from the answers they gave in the beginning. A similar result was obtained from those who had to remember the text and who drank regular orange juice. But the answers of those who had to recall the text and who drank caffeinated orange juice varied from their original responses.

Another test

In the second experiment, researchers repeated the exercise with approximately the same number of male students but added distractions to make sure that the previous results were not skewed by students who may not have been sufficiently distracted by the letter-hunting task.

One group had to cross out the letter "o" while simultaneously indicating whether or not they heard the various tones playing in their headsets. The other group had to read and remember the text while indicating when they heard specific musical tones.

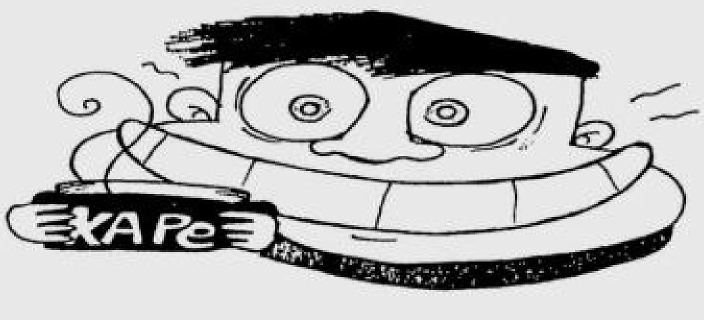
The experiment yielded similar results: the "caffeinated" students who focused on the text and were only minimally distracted by sounds were more likely to have different responses to the questionnaires filled out before and after the trial, while the three other groups were less likely to have changed their minds.

Immune

Fortunately, or not, depending on the situation, those who ingest large quantities of caffeine are rendered immune to the compound's effects.

Martin et al. note that their study doesn't rule out the possibility that the change in attitude might also be due to mood shifts brought on by caffeine. If the students were tired, the caffeine might have perked them up, thus causing the change in responses. They said this was a theory that merited further study.

The article was published online ahead of the print run on June 5 of the European Journal of Social Psychology.



Straight talk on calories

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

CALORIES ARE TWO-FACED. ON THE one hand, they are simply measurements of the energy we get from food. On the other, too many calories lead to weight gain.

Felices Cuaderno of the S & T Media Service gives us some myths, and the truth behind them:

Myth: Eating rice, bakery products and candies and drinking soft drinks at night lead to weight gain.

Fact: No matter what time you eat (whether day or night), you gain weight when you eat more calories than you burn. Avoid mindless munching in front of the TV.

Myth: Fat-free is calorie-free.

Fact: We may indulge in fat-free food such as cookies and cakes without realizing that they may contain the same or even more calories than their regular counterparts. Get the facts on fat-free foods by checking the label for the serving size and amount of calories per serving.

Myth: Carbohydrates and sugar cause weight gain.

Fact: Carbohydrates (and protein and fat, for that matter) do not cause weight gain unless they contribute to excess calorie intake. Some people have diets that are extremely high in carbohydrates and low in protein and fat. Studies show they get hungry sooner, and thus tend to overeat.

Myth: Do calories count?

Fact: Yes. For instance, an intake of 100 extra calories from an extra half-cup of cooked rice or two small slices of bread every day beyond the daily requirement can add about 10 pounds to body weight at yearend.

Math humor

Ross Simeon [rsimeon23@yahoo.com] writes, "The jokes published in your columns are funny. Here are two more, although I did not write them."

A mathematician, a biologist and a physicist are sitting in a street café watching people going in and coming out of the house on the other side of the street. First they see two people going into the house. Time passes. After a while they notice three persons coming out of the house.

The physicist says, "The measurement wasn't accurate."

The biologist says, "They have reproduced."

The mathematician says, "If now exactly one person enters the house then it will be empty again."

Calculus

The second anecdote needs a little knowledge of basic calculus, and I am happy to note that several high schools now teach this subject.

Two mathematicians are in a bar. The first one says to the second that the average person knows very little about basic math. The second one disagrees, and claims that most people can cope with a reasonable amount of math.

The first mathematician goes off to the washroom, and in his absence the second calls over the waitress. He tells her that in a few minutes, after his friend has returned, he will call her over and ask her a question. All she has to do is answer "One third x cubed."

She agrees, and goes off mumbling to herself.

The first guy returns and the second proposes a bet to prove his point. He says he will ask the blonde waitress an integral, and the first laughingly agrees. The second man calls over the waitress and asks "What is the integral of x squared?"

The waitress says "One third x cubed," and while walking away, turns back and says, "Plus a constant!"

Herbal remedies offered for 2 male health problems

By Charles E. Buban

ONE SHOULD BE VERY PRUDENT when using products that claim to be natural alternatives for treating impotence. These so-called "herbal" Viagra and which are often advertised on the Internet may be ineffective, if not dangerous.

"There are many products marketed as such, and as with any product on the market, some work while others don't. More alarming are those supposedly herbal alternatives that contain small amounts of the prescription drug," said Dr. Gopi Menon, senior research scientist at Nutrilite Health Institute.

Menon, who is in charge of developing plant-based supplements and concentrates, was recently invited by Amway Philippines to formally introduce two new plant-based products that address common male health problems.

Menon said Nutrilite Naturally Together is a food supplement that enhances sexual performance in men while Nutrilite Saw Palmetto and Nettle Root Blend is an herbal preparation to support normal prostate function and urinary flow.

African spice

Menon said Naturally Together is not a drug or an aphrodisiac since it does not trigger desire but instead helps support vigor and stamina. He said it does not have the side effects common to most performance-enhancing drugs.

He said Naturally Together is sourced from a spice known in Africa as grains of paradise. The seeds come from a plant belonging to the ginger family and are often used in African and Moroccan dishes.

In a small clinical trial initiated by the institute, Menon reported that 60 percent of those took the supplement had improved performance during sexual activity within one to three hours after taking the soft gels.

Moreover, he said, the participants reported a 16 percent to 20 percent improvement in specific aspects of sexual performance and intimate relationship quality compared to placebo.

The other product, Nutrilite Saw Palmetto and Nettle Root Blend, was found to have beneficial effects on lower urinary tract symptoms due to the occurrence of benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH), a noncancerous swelling of the prostate and the resulting urinary difficulties that affect many middle aged or elderly men, said Menon.

Used by native Americans

Menon explained that saw palmetto has been used by native Americans to treat urinary problems.

"Evidence is building that the compound taken from a partially dried ripe fruit of the American dwarf palm tree may help treat BPH. In fact, the compound is already an accepted medical treatment for the condition in Germany, Austria, Italy and other European countries," he said.

The nettle root, meanwhile, is traditionally used to treat urinary tract inflammation and the discomforts of an enlarged prostate.

Menon said natural, plant-based remedies are enjoying a renaissance as a modern-day reaction to synthetic treatments.

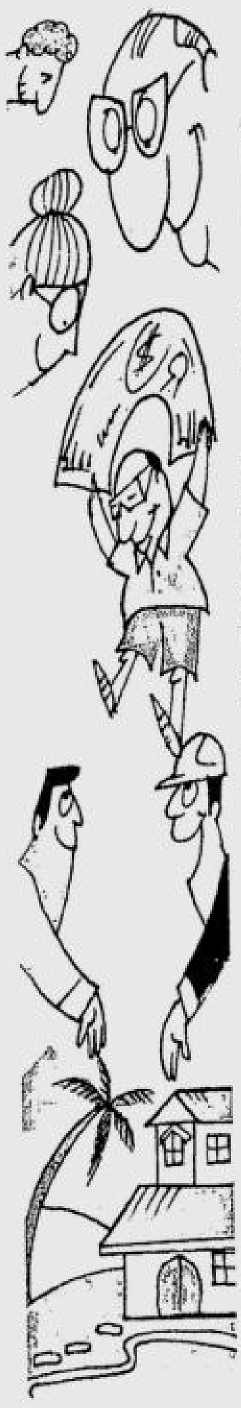
"But it should not be forgotten that these herbs and spices have been used as medicines for centuries," Menon said.

The institute has studied the diets of populations with a low incidence of a particular disease and tested plants for phytonutrients with particular effects. Menon said the institute employs the most advanced scientific processes and facilities as well as the strictest quality control measures in producing their supplements.

PROPERTY

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**

Gov't, property sector bullish on retirement villages



By Tessa R. Salazar

"THIS IS NOT JUST FOR THE BIG FIVE real estate companies. This is for all of us. So let us train and prepare for it."

This was the bullish declaration of Gen. Edgar B. Aglipay, chair of the Philippine Retirement Authority, to representatives of property developers comprising the Philippine Retirement Industry (PRI) as the two parties initiated plans to set up retirement villages for the expected multitude of foreigners who will decide to spend the twilight of their years in the Philippines.

Aglipay also reassured those present that the real estate sector would be behind the retirement industry's preparation.

Among those present during the meeting were representatives from Robinsons Land Corp., Megaworld, Filinvest, Ayala Land Inc., Empire East Properties, Subic Homes, Highlands Prime Inc. of SM and Healthcare Coalition Institute.

Flagship industry

The retirement industry was recently declared by President Arroyo as a flagship industry, underlining the potential impact of the expected $40-billion revenue in the next 10 years on the country's socioeconomic landscape.

Aglipay recently disclosed to INQUIRER Property that he had been meeting with landed families who had been expressing plans of setting up their own retirement villages.

Property developers, among other sectors, are being urged to prepare for at least nearly a million retirees from Korea, Japan, China, Taiwan, the United States, Canada and other European countries in the next 10 years. The Philippines, in particular, can expect an increased influx of *balikbayans* with dual citizenships who would want to spend the rest of their life in the country.

Housing demands

Just for the retirement sector, the Philippines is expected to face housing demands estimated at 859,000 units, either for lease or purchase, in the next 10 years.

Noel Gonzales, summit chair and director of the Philippine Retirement Industry, said 80 percent of the retirement industry would involve the real estate sector.

"To jumpstart the industry, all inventories nationwide should involve linking up hospitals and tourist destinations until we can develop integrated retirement villages," he said.

Aglipay said the Korean Chamber of Commerce members showed interest in going into the retirement business. He also said the Association of Los Baños professors who are retired and have properties also expressed interest.

Aglipay said a company based in Tarlac had expressed intentions to build a retirement village, and a Filipino-Chinese in the camera business is planning to set up a retirement village here, with marketing offices in Tiananmen and Shanghai.

There's a market

"The industry feels that there's a market for retirement villages and that they can provide the services. This means they are confident that they can put up a real estate component, and coordinate for the health, hospitality and wellness requirements," said Aglipay.

"We have discovered a business that is especially cut for us," he said.

Aglipay said, however, that setting up retirement villages would entail much work. "We should educate our people on what this is all about. This will create jobs, and will bring back OFWs to work here."

Apart from Korea, Aglipay also went to Japan to talk to the possible retirees of the Long Stay Foundation recently.

To address the need for more world-class health facilities around the country, healthcare facilities are currently being tied up with real estate inventories nationwide.

CONSTRUCTSCOPE

Celadon: Home of rich tradition

CELADON RESIDENCES, THE ONLY MASTER-PLANNED COMMUNITY IN Manila, recently served as the venue for a calligraphy art session.

Supervised by calligrapher Marilyn Lee, kids of young Filipino-Chinese families showcased their skills in the art of Chinese calligraphy. Celadon's location was part of the old Chinatown.

Celadon Residences is a 4.2-hectare community that will only house 202 townhomes to encourage a more intimate interaction and socialization among residents.

This first suburban townhouse community to rise in Binondo is a visual attraction of lush vegetation and Mediterranean-inspired architecture. It is near business establishments in Binondo, reputable Chinese educational institutions and hospitals.

Community Innovations [Tel. No. (02)241-4976] is an Ayala Land company that caters to young urban achievers. It builds balanced, harmonious communities with a sense of fun, where the living experience enhances the lifestyles and fulfills the aspirations of its customer.

Open house for Carmel Town

ORCHARD PROPERTY MARKETING CORP. WILL HAVE AN OPEN HOUSE FOR Carmel Town on June 17. Discounts as high as 15 percent may be availed of.

Carmel Town is set to become the most exciting destination in the South. Its country club, The Mills, offers recreational amenities such as basketball court, tennis court, badminton court, billiards hall, swimming pool, coffee shop, sauna, jacuzzi and massage rooms.

Strategically located at the very heart of the new urban center in the south—recognized as the next Ayala—Carmel Town is a 55-hectare community.

It is another quality project of Sta. Lucia Realty & Development Inc. in partnership with Carmelray Town Development Corp. For inquiries, call Orchard Property Marketing at (02) 635-4946.

Keys to a successful realty investing

URBAN INSTITUTE WILL CONDUCT A LECTURE ON "INVESTING IN REAL Estate: Opportunities, Techniques and What Are Needed to Be Learned" on June 26 at 1:30 to 6 p.m. at the Maximo function room, second floor, Max's Restaurant, Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati City.

Also to be conducted on the succeeding days at the same time and venue is a series of other topics, which can be attended separately, as follows: June 28—Legal Aspect of Sale, Mortgage and Lease with Contract Documentation and Registration; June 30—Management of Rental Properties: How to Maximize Income of Rental Properties; July 3—Joint Ventures and Syndications for Real Estate Projects; July 5—Taxation Aspects of Real Estate Transactions and Real Property Assessment; July 7—How to Start and Manage a Successful Real Estate Brokerage Company;

July 10—Making Big Money in Distressed Properties; July 12—How-tos of Real Property Appraisal; July 14—Property Development Principles and Updates on HLURB Rules and Regulations; July 17—How-tos of Installment Sales and Lease-to-Own Scheme; July 19—Real Estate Finance and Investment Analysis; July 21—Mathematics of Real Estate Investment; July 24—Real Estate Accounting: Avoiding Violations and Penalties; July 26—How to Prevent and Remedy Foreclosure; July 28—Buying and Financing Your First Home: What You Must Know.

For inquiries, call Urban Institute at 661-0928 or CP 0916-426-9174 or e-mail at urbanet@pacific.net.ph.

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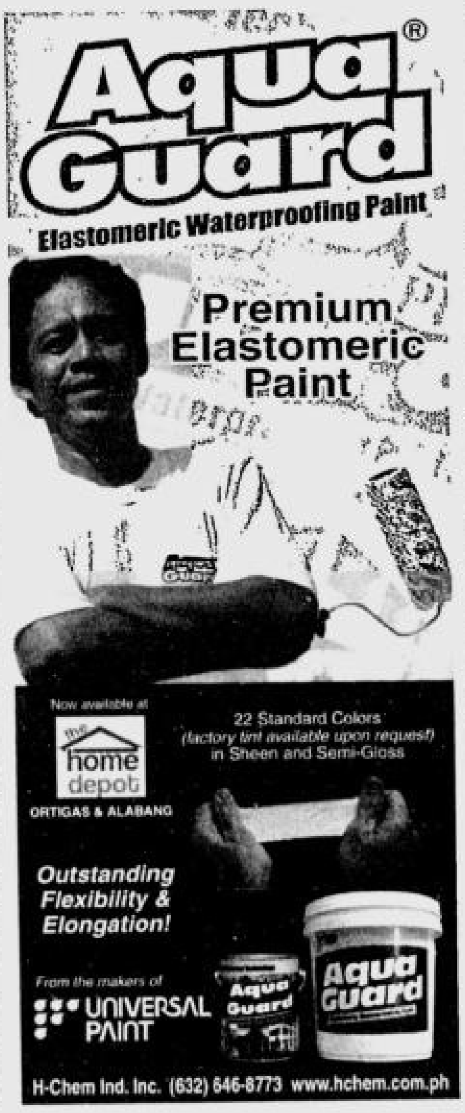

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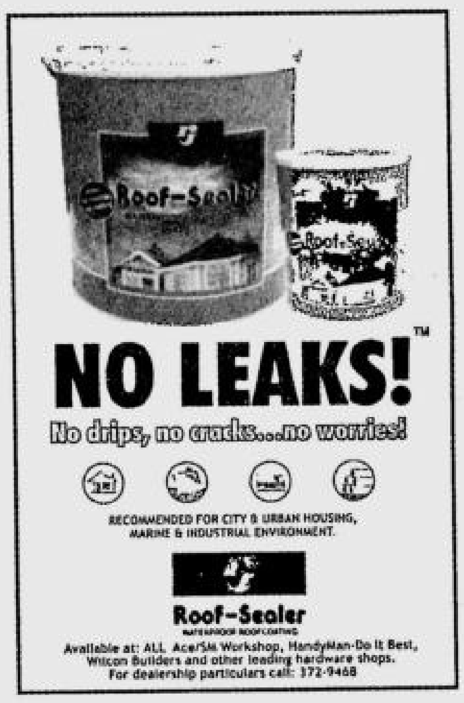

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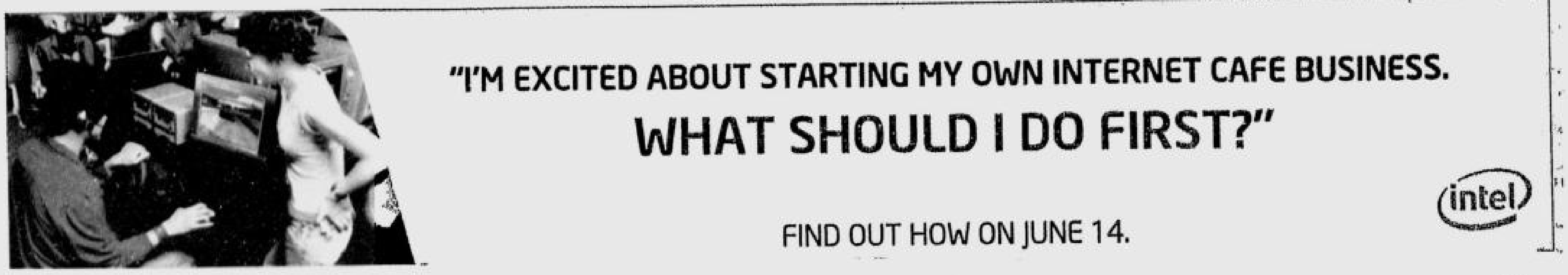

"I'M EXCITED ABOUT STARTING MY OWN INTERNET CAFE BUSINESS. WHAT SHOULD I DO FIRST?"
FIND OUT HOW ON JUNE 14.
intel

Serving both OFWs, home developers

By Charles E. Buban

WITH MONEY REmittances from overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) expected to grow by another 10 percent and reach a new high of $13 billion (P687.7 billion) next year, one company positioned itself to serve as a conduit between these OFWs and their families here, and the home developers nationwide.

"The growth in OFW remittances is a positive news since this could serve as a catalyst to boost the country's fledging housing industry," said Subdivision and Housing Developers Association board adviser Bansan Choa who also chairs iRemit Global Remittance, a leading remittance company that recently partnered with Chinatrust to launch the new iRemit Visa Card.

Choa said the partnership will enable these OFWs and even those Filipinos permanently based abroad to send cash (through the iRemit Visa Card issued by Chinatrust) to their families here in the fastest, secured and most convenient way possible.

"In addition to better remittance service, the partnership makes cashless shopping and worldwide ATM access possible," explained Harris Jacildo, iRemit president and COO. He said iRemit is also in touch with other major banks in the country for a similar partnership.

Worldwide ATM access

Using the iRemit Visa card, Jacildo further explained that OFWs and their families here will have access to some 4,000 Bancnet/Megalink ATMs nationwide, close to a million Visa ATMs worldwide as well as make cashless shopping possible at over 69,000 establishments in the Philippines and over 24 million worldwide that accept Visa cards with no extra charge.

At present, iRemit offers to its OFW clients bank-to-bank, door-to-door delivery, remittance pick-up (notify and pay), Globe G-Cash, Smart Padala, bills payment services and the iRemit Visa Card.

"But more than these conveniences, the Filipino dream of owning a home is foremost in the minds of OFWs. We believe that part of the strong surge in OFW worker remittances is being invested in housing," Choa said.

He said a considerable percentage of OFWs holding professional jobs are now contemplating on setting up a house or business in their hometowns, having a vacation home, or simply coming home to retire after many years of working abroad. Of the estimated eight million OFWs at present, three million are permanent residents.

Choa added that the housing industry is currently posting an average OFW contribution of 25 percent and could easily improve as the Banko Sentral ng Pilipinas is expecting OFW remittance to reach $11.8 billion (P625 billion) this year.

Green buildings have high market value

GREEN ARCHITRENDS

Amado de Jesus

BAYER House Building, Philippines (Canlubang Industrial Estate, Calamba, Laguna), won the 2nd Runner-up Award in last year's Asean Energy Awards. Its green features include raised floor, thermal insulated windows, extensive use of daylight, waste segregation and recycling of water for irrigation and flushing of toilets and urinals.

A CLEAR LINK IS BEGINNING TO EMERGE between the market value of a building and its green features. This is in contrast to what many in the building industry claim that green buildings are not profitable, and go beyond the budget and project schedules.

What is a green building?

A green building is one that uses resources such as land, materials, energy and water efficiently, reduces waste, minimizes pollution, provides superior indoor air quality and causes less damage to the environment.

Benefits of green buildings

Green buildings attract tenants and buyers more quickly. They fetch higher rental rates or prices and have lower tenant turnover rates. In addition, they cost less to operate and maintain. They are also energy efficient and therefore cause no pollution.

Studies show that many green buildings cost no more to build, or even less than the alternatives because resource efficient strategies often allow reducing the size of more costly systems for the mechanical, electrical and even the structural system. The important factor to consider is integrated design.

In general, the cost of building green is small compared to the benefits which are likely to exceed extra costs.

The potential benefits from green design, building and operational systems is even higher for renovation or retrofit of existing conventional projects. Some estimate this market or type of construction at eight times greater than the market for new construction.

In the United States, a recent study has shown a direct link between investment by homeowners in energy-efficient work and the market value of their homes.

In England, it has been found that some buyers will pay a premium for a green home.

In Thailand, at the height of the energy crisis in the region, many offices and commercial establishments had very low occupancy rates. In Bangkok, two identical office buildings were located within the same downtown area. One was a conventional building while the other was a green and energy-efficient building. The green building was fully occupied while the other was not. Main reason: the green building offered lower monthly dues, lower utility bills and was a more pleasant place to work.

Green buildings are also known for better lighting and very good indoor air quality. In turn these translate into healthier employees, less absences, better sales and greater productivity.

If one has to pick out a major factor in which green buildings can add value, it would be the benefits to business and the economy as a whole.

Misinformation, lack of information

With all the obvious advantages that green buildings have to offer, why is it that very few green buildings are being built?

One of the main reasons may be that developers and designers are not aware of what green buildings have to offer.

It is unfortunate that with the country's unprecedented increase in the volume of projects ranging from single-detached houses to high-rise condominium buildings, the home-buying public is not told about the benefits of green buildings.

Both the real estate agents and developers are clearly missing a considerable commercial opportunity. Green buildings bring real business benefits and increased market value.

In the Asean region, many of our neighbors are increasingly well aware of this. Their buildings not only look good but they are also very green. They consider not only the way the building relates to the environment but also how it relates to the occupants and the quality of their life. After all, experts now agree that the main value of green buildings is to the occupier and business, to health and productivity.

In the design of green buildings, too much attention is given to energy savings because it is easy to measure, forgetting that this is usually less than one percent of business operating costs. By comparison, total annual real estate expenses are about 10 percent of such costs while staff costs can go as high as 85 percent. This means that the biggest return on investment should be derived from improvement in business productivity due to green buildings.

As our developers compete with each other in enticing local and foreign-based Filipino home buyers, they set themselves apart from the competition by offering countless variations of Asian and European-inspired chateaus and villas, etc.

A better way to set themselves off from the competition is by building green homes and showing their target market the many benefits of green buildings. This is very effective marketing, especially for balikbayan and overseas workers who have lived in advanced countries and are looking for the same "green features" they have been accustomed to abroad.

What needs to be done?

To make people appreciate the value of green buildings, their outstanding features must be highlighted to set them off from the rest of the conventional buildings. This undertaking is already being done by the Asean Energy Awards and has been going on for the past seven years.

The competition aims to make the member-countries of Asean aware of the need to make green and energy-efficient buildings. Winning entries are awarded in a special ceremony marking the event.

Real estate appraisers can help promote the value of green buildings. In practice, what they assess is merely the physical aspect of a building. They may also highlight the benefits of green buildings so that more people will appreciate green value.

Another way is for the green building industry that includes architects, builders, etc. and the financial industries to work together and start seeing each other's point of view. Only then will the benefits of green buildings, financial and nonfinancial, be fully understood or quantified.

Those in the rental business should include in their leasing contracts provisions for tenants to reduce operating costs and contribute to ongoing green building performance goals.

Finally, the most effective way to encourage the construction of green buildings is for top management to get involved. After all, the benefits derived from green buildings will definitely affect the profits derived from such projects.

For comments or inquiries, e-mail amadodejesus@gmail.com.

A luxury of greenery at One Serendra

THE LANDSCAPING of the Serendra sales pavilion in Bonifacio Global City is representative of the actual greenery residents can look forward to in One Serendra.

SERENDRA IS THE PIONEERING garden residential condominium development that provides weary families the best option of suburban living in the metropolis and a most prime location.

Located at the Bonifacio Global City, Serendra is near schools, commercial centers and places of work. It also provides two lifestyle choices to suit any homeowner's need—whether exclusivity with a freedom of time and space, or vibrant community living.

From Ayala Land Premier (ALP)—the new name for top-of-the-line real-estate projects of Ayala Land—experience such exclusivity and luxury time within your own home and beyond only at One Serendra. It provides an unparalleled experience of living with its spacious units, well-appointed unit features such as walk-in closets and maid's quarters, impeccable finishes of natural stone countertops and wood parquet flooring, and hotel-like amenities and services. Moreover, One Serendra provides a unique type of greenery experience within the whole Serendra development.

Themed gardens

One Serendra's themed gardens are carefully masterplanned and created with only the best partners and consultants at par with ALP's legacy of exclusive and valued developments. "One Serendra's greenery is set apart within the Serendra development due to its complexity and richness, and a truly interactive nature—plants and flowers are not only part of the scenery, but part of daily life as well," explains Cristy Comia, head of landscaping unit of Ayala Land's Construction Management Group.

Instead of using plants that are commonplace, the masterplan calls for the use of unique plants. For instance, imagine using calamansi as main shrubbery in your surroundings instead of the usual varieties of plants traditionally used in landscaping.

Jomar Borja of Tropic Asia, ALP's local landscape consultant, expounds on the gardens of One Serendra. An orchidarium will house exquisite and precious orchids from around the globe, such as varieties of vandas. A chico, caimito and santol orchard also double as a wide playground with an expanse of grass, perfect for activities with kids.

There will also be a unique scented garden, containing trees and shrubs with fragrant flowers like camia, rosal and sampaguita that add not only visual beauty but a complete relaxing experience for the senses. "The garden themes truly reflect the discriminating taste of One Serendra residents," he says.

Perfect backdrop

A drop-off area or *porte cochere* of One Serendra will also be designed with a Zen garden theme in mind, placing relaxing visuals elements together with greenery landscaped in a simple but serene manner, truly focusing on the healing and comforting characteristics of nature.

All this greenery is the perfect backdrop to the myriad of living conveniences and benefits of One Serendra. Spacious units with balconies and lanais open up to fresh breeze and scenery. Amenities are also situated within the greenery, such that the relaxing and rejuvenating activities in the gym, fitness areas and sports courts are enhanced. There is even a spa exclusive for One Serendra residents.

One Serendra's brand of greenery sets it apart not just within Serendra but among other residential condominiums as well. Enjoy the soothing benefits of nature living while still living in the conveniences of a full-service condominium development. One Serendra is a genuine luxury of suburban living made real by Ayala Land Premier (tel. no. 889-1373).

Caribé of The Islands breaks ground for Guadeloupe

BRITTANY officers (from left) Nova Noval, Trixie Dial and Marylee Sadiasa leave their imprints for The Islands "walk of fame."

PROPERTY MAVERICK BRITTANY Corp. sustains the fast-paced development of Caribé, one of five enclaves currently rising at The Islands in Dasmariñas, Cavite, with the recent groundbreaking for Guadeloupe, the first of five model homes to be showcased in the enclave. The model home's groundbreaking comes just over a month after Caribé's launch, auguring the benefit of speedy turnovers to residents.

The Islands, with lush tropical landscaping amid great spaces refreshed by breezes under wide skies, are a high-end, masterplanned collection of enclaves creating residential "lifescapes" (a Brittany signature) inspired by some of the world's leading island resort destinations that speak of leisurely enjoyment. Joining its sister enclaves Ibiza, Island Park, Montego and Amalfi, Caribé is The Islands' latest offering, a 4.3–hectare enclave for a niche market of residents seeking a laid-back and luxurious "lifescape" after blazing successful careers in their chosen businesses or professions.

Offering custom home sites (lots only) as well as home and lot packages, Caribé is a first in enclaves for such a market, because it exclusively offers single-story, sprawling home designs built around an open floor plan, influenced by those Caribbean-themed homes in fashionable Florida communities like Palm Beach. The architecture as well as exteriors and interiors create a sense of those Florida homes, with the *joie de vivre* of the Caribbean tempered by casual sophistication.

As with other Caribé home designs, Guadeloupe, with 208 square meters of floor space, is distinguished by a gabled façade, colorful, textured exterior walls framed by white moldings, shuttered windows and doors, an array of thoughtful details reminiscent of classic Florida homes. The open floor plan is highlighted by the "great room" which serves as the main function area for each home. A Caribé home is not complete without a wide veranda and a master's suite with a spacious walk-in closet and bathroom.

Attractions

Among the attractions of Caribé, and The Islands as a whole, is its well-chosen location, with access from Alabang via the wide Daang-Hari highway through Molino-Paliparan highway. The Islands has opened a new access road to Molino-Paliparan, the road only about 700 meters from Caribé.

The Islands offers the amenities of Club Island, the country club which will offer leisure facilities in a beautiful, tropical ambiance, including a free-form pool with cabanas. Gardens, butterfly sanctuaries and tropical trees will frame the clubhouse, with its grand ballroom that will comfortably host up to 300 persons. Another attraction of The Islands will be Paseo Park, a complex with recreational and sports facilities for the exclusive use of homeowners.

The various Caribé homes have floor areas ranging from 135 to 230 sq m. Custom home sites range from 247 to 681 sq m.

Life in The Islands is not meant for everyone. But for those who have earned the privilege, previews of Caribé and The Islands' other enclaves may be arranged by calling 842-1251 and 850-2868.

How to choose the right blinds

WOOD BLINDS ARE SOME OF the world's most popular window fashions as they go perfectly with varied design styles—from the rustic to the traditional, the casual to the contemporary.

Great for bay and corner windows, sliding glass doors, French doors and cut outs, wood blinds are ideal for residential and vacation homes and luxury resorts in countries with tropical climates like the Philippines.

Significant investment

Apart from addressing a wide range of design styles, wooden blinds are also durable and long lasting, hence, a significant investment. This is the reason designers and homeowners need to do their homework to ensure that the wooden blinds they are purchasing are the real deals. This means that they should not only address their esthetic needs, but they are of the highest quality as well.

And one way of making sure that one is investing in the right product is to go for a brand that has long been known for providing the best products—and after services—like Hunter Douglas.

Hunter Douglas is the world's leading name in window fashions and its wood blinds and shutter collections are the most preferred products of many designers, not only because of their varied designs and polished finishes, but also because they offer their clients durability, making them a good investment.

Some tips

And here, Hunter Douglas shares with readers some tips on choosing the right blinds:

- **Choose solid, natural wood.** Always go through the product information to help you confirm whether what you're purchasing is made from 100 percent real, natural wood. Hunter Douglas wood blinds, for example, are made from genuine American hardwood, making it strong and long-lasting.
- **Look for "custom" wood blinds construction.** "Custom" means the blinds have been built to the exact specifications of your window while "customized" means the blinds have merely been cut down to fit your window. When you order at Hunter Douglas [tel. nos. (02) 4533155, 0917-8239241 and 0922-8089275], you can choose from a wide range of colors to suit your preference.
- **Look for light-blocking features.** Quality wood blinds are built with tight tolerances between panels to minimize or entirely eliminate light leakages.
- **Choose a high-quality finish.** You'll know it's high quality if it's smooth and hard to the touch and lustrous and rich to the eye.
- **Look at the statistics for energy efficiency and UV protection.** Wood blinds should not only look good, they should also help you increase your energy savings (reducing your home's heating and cooling costs) and protect the interiors of your home from damaging ultraviolet rays. Hunter Douglas' Heritance wood blinds offer superior UV protection as well as good sound absorption.
- **Look for a warranty that demonstrates product quality and customer satisfaction.** The best way to know what's covered is to ask for a copy of the warranty. Also, check into the company that stands behind the warranty. Make sure the company has a reputation for manufacturing consistently superior quality products and maintaining a high level of customer satisfaction.
- **Once you settle on a price, be sure everything is included.** Double check to make sure that the price you're quoted includes all the design options you want in your finished blinds.
- **Ensure trained professionals install your wood blinds.** Custom-crafted wood blinds require custom attention. And when you're making a significant investment in your window treatments, you want to make sure an experienced professional is both measuring and installing them, so there are no surprises.
- **If you choose Country Woods blinds from Hunter Douglas, be sure they are authentic.** The warranty registration helps ensure that you receive optimal customer service in the future.

People, Events & Products

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aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Aries Espinosa

Carmeltown drives Canlubang's development

WHAT WAS ONCE A VAST TRACT OF sugarcane fields has virtually transformed into a rapidly growing cluster of developments south of Metro Manila. Several residential, industrial and commercial projects have been gradually but surely rising in this corridor lining the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX). Don Jose Yulo's vision of transforming his favorite Canlubang into a new metropolis is now finally taking place.

Carmeltown is the central area of development in the fast rising New Canlubang area. Consisting of over 600 hectares, this prime property is central to the contiguous 7,000 hectare property controlled by the Yulo family. Already there are several multinational companies operating in the Carmelray Industrial Park 1, a premier Light to Medium Ecozone which is home to several Dollar earning companies such as Fujitsu, and Tupperware. Big name companies like Jollibee Food Corp and Edward Keller have also made this their chosen place of operations. As of last count, the park is estimated to have a working population of 15,000.

Residential communities are rapidly rising in this township, which is well within driving distance from Alabang and even Makati (30 to 45 minutes).

Top rated schools such as De La Salle, St. Scholastica and others are already operating in the area. Recently , San Sebastian College Recoletos set up an impressive facility right in the heart of Carmeltown and is set to commence educating the students of the south this June.

Notably, another institution, the TDG's NYK Maritime academy is also moving in to begin operations by school year 2007. This campus is envisioned to have state-of-the-art technology and facilities to cater not only to the local maritime community but also to foreign practitioners wishing to further hone their skills in their craft.

Within the area also is The Mills Country Club which recently broke ground. The private club is being made available to the lot buyers of the Carmeltown Neighborhood One, as well as the locators in the surrounding industrial parks.

The club will have facilities and amenities such as beach-type (sanded) pools, spas, bowling, tennis courts, badminton courts etc, and even Cabanas where guests can stay overnight.

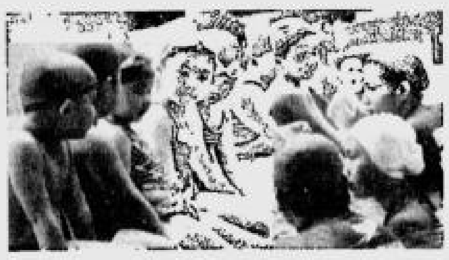
The township is largely being developed by the Sta. Lucia Group jointly with the Carmeltown Corp Group.

Golf courses have long since found their places in these gently rolling hills of Canlubang. Canlubang Golf and Country Club, Sta. Elena Golf Club, and most recently, the Country Club are a few of the finest golf clubs which have chosen this place because of its gentle climate and wide open spaces.

Even the Ayala Group has made pronouncements on this favored land several years ago and quite recently, a lot of developmental activity has been observed, leaving little doubt that this place is definitely one place worth looking at, now.

GLOBE OPENS STORE AT SM MALL OF ASIA

Globe Telecom has opened a new business center, the company's 34th store in the greater Metro Manila area, at the country's largest shopping complex the SM Mall of Asia. This is Globe's biggest business center in the southern part of the metropolis. At the inauguration of the SM Mall of Asia Globe Telecom Business Center are (from left) head of sales and distribution Joey V. Mendoza, chief operating advisor Andrew Buay, area head for South GMA Mary Ann C. Alvarado, GMA regional business head Ricardo C. Avelino, Jr., SM Mall of Asia business manager Tony Rodriguez, consumer business head Ferdinand M. Dela Cruz and business center development head Ma. Bernadette 'Didi' S. Javier.



WATER-SAFETY

Shown are students being given instructions on how to be safe in the water by teachers of the Bert Lozada Swim School (BLSS). Interested participants can still catch the last batch of the summer swimming lessons. For details, please call 589-1982, 563-5532, 8000-576, 805-0237, 0917-700-SWIM (7946) or visit the website at www.bertlozadaswimschool.com.

AIG DONATES US$200,000 FOR LEYTE TRAGEDY RELIEF

American International Group Inc (AIG), the parent company of Philamlife, recently donated US$200,000 (approximately P10.4 million) for the support of the victims of the landslide tragedy that devastated the town of Saint Bernard, Southern Leyte early this year. According to Philamlife president and CEO Jose L. Cuisia Jr., US$150,000 (approximately P7.8 million) has been coursed through Gawad Kalinga, a local NGO, to help provide shelter to those rescued and to the residents of the ten nearby villages in danger of experiencing the same fate. Meanwhile, US$50,000 (approximately P2.6 million) has been coursed through the Social Action Center of the Archdiocese of Leyte to address the immediate needs of the ongoing relief operations such as medicines, food, clothing, blankets, tents, potable drinking water, etc. Aside from AIG's donation, Philam Group employees have also expressed support for the victims of the tragedy. Photo shows Philam Foundation president Jesus G. Hofileña (right) and executive director lawyer Manuel L. Ortega (left) with Bishop Precioso Cantillas of the Diocese Social Action Center-Maasin during the formal turnover of two check donations in Leyte.

MDH ASSISTS CATARACT PATIENTS

Manila Doctors Hospital (MDH), Manila's first and only ISO certified hospital, in partnership with Metrobank Foundation (MBFI), recently concluded the Gift of Vision (GOV) program which aims to provide free surgery to poverty-stricken cataract patients. The program, now on its 6th year, has restored the eyesight of around 600 patients coming from all over the country. Nowadays, a cataract surgery is said to cost around P50,000 to P60,000. However, with the help of socially responsible groups like MBFI and MDH, the costs are significantly trimmed. For its part, MBFI allocates around P6 million annually for medical and surgical mission, while MDH assists by extending the use of its medical facilities for free. Moreover, MDH consultants from the Department of Ophthalmology, nurses and other medical staff volunteer their services pro bono. Also, pharmaceutical companies lend a hand in providing much needed medicines and medical supplies. Photo shows, Dr. Cesar Espiritu, MDH consultant, checking on one of the patients before entering the operating room. For more information on other medical and surgical missions, call the MDH Corporate Social Responsibility Department or e-mail at info@maniladoctors.com.ph.

PYNOCARE CELEBRATES 1ST YEAR IN THE PHILIPPINES WITH YES!

PynoCare 40 Actisome, the first oral treatment for 'pekas' or melasma, celebrated its 1st year of bringing Pekas-Free skin to Filipino women by treating its most loyal users and partner-doctors to a night of glamour and shining celebrities during YES! Magazine's 6th anniversary thanksgiving night for its thousands of readers entitled 'YES! to six years… and more!' The highlights of the evening were the awarding of the two prestigious awards sponsored by Pynocare 40 Actisome – the Bravo Award, which was handed out to Lucy Torres-Gomez for her significant contribution to society, and the Hall of Famer Award to Maricel Soriano as a tribute to her illustrious career in show business and her significant achievements in the industry. As an added benefit to its loyal users, Pynocare SPF 25 Sunblock, an ideal partner of Pynocare 40 Actisome Pekas-Free treatment is now available. Pynocare 40 Actisome and Pynocare SPF 25 Sunblock are products of Mega LifeSciences Philippines. They are available over the counter in Mercury Drug, Watsons, Rose Pharmacy and other leading drugstores nationwide. For inquiries, call the Mega Hotline at 894-1111 or send SMS to (0917) 827-4330. Photo shows Lucy Torres with Mega Products Ltd country manager Rishi Pradhan (4th from left) and the Pynocare Brand Team.

ProductFILES

Get onboard the world's 1st A380 flight with SIA

TAKE YOUR PLACE IN AVIATION HISTORY. two seats on the world's first A380 commercial flight on Singapore Airlines and a luxurious two-destination hotel stay in Singapore and Sydney await the winner of the Singapore Airlines 'First to Fly the A380 Quiz-and-Draw'. Singapore Airlines is offering this exclusive travel experience to celebrate the historic flight from Singapore to Sydney. To complement the inflight service even other airlines talk about, you can look forward to the legendary hospitality and luxurious hotel experience at Raffles The Plaza, Singapore and Swissôtel Sydney on Market Street. The Singapore Airlines "First to Fly the A380 Quiz-and-Draw" is open to all above 18 years of age, from June 13 to Sept. 13. To enter, simply log on to www.singaporeair.com/a380 and complete a series of simple questions from June 13 to Sept. 13. You can increase your chances of winning by inviting friends to register and play.

SINGAPORE AIRLI

Gilbey's 'Taste the World'

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'CHOC-TEE! KONBE! Gom bui! Cheers, mate!' These are just some of the different ways of offering a toast in Bangkok, Seoul, Hong Kong, Singapore, London and Sydney - and you might find them useful if you win the 'Taste the World with Gilbey's' promo. Hurry, you just have a few more days left to submit your entries. By joining the promo, you stand to win a trip for two to one of those cities and enjoy free airfare, three-day/two-night hotel accommodation, and $300 pocket money. Nokia 6680 cellphones, Digital Cameras, iPod Nanos, special edition Gilbey's leather jackets and luggage sets are also up for grabs. To join "Taste the World with Gilbey's", simply buy any Gilbey's Premium London Dry Gin (Green), Gilbey's London Dry Gin (Red) or Gilbey's Vodka (Blue), fill up the attached raffle coupon, and place in drop boxes in participating outlets nationwide. Promo ends on June 15. For more details, text GILBEY'S to 2966.

Bits Clips

Dream Satellite TV brings 2006 FIFA World Cup

WORLD CUP FANATICS ARE SCRAMBLING FOR THE REmaining tickets sold at exorbitant prices, amounting to as high as 6,850 euros or approximately P470,000 for a front-seat at the tournament's championship game. Most of the 2.93 million tickets for the 64 matches at the 2006 FIFA World Cup in Germany have been sold, but some made their way to online auction houses, where prices were raised by up to ten times from their original prices. World Cup fanatics in the Philippines, however, do not have to shell out hundreds of thousands of pesos to watch a single game. Dream Satellite TV is bringing the full excitement and intensity of the 2006 FIFA World Cup to the Philippines through its affordable pay-per-view packages. With its all-digital direct-to-home (DTH) TV broadcasting service via satellite, Dream Satellite TV have dedicated pay-per-view channels for the 64 live World Cup matches. Gerry Castro, VP for marketing of Dream Satellite TV, said that for a one-time package fee of P3,000, subscribers can watch all the 64 matches in the entire 31-day competition including replays. For more info about Dream pay-per-view, call 918-8000.

Marian Pilgrimage

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO JOIN THE MARIAN PILGRIMAGE TOUR AS part of the World Meeting of Families scheduled on July 6 to 21. Experience the solemn eucharistic mass with the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI. For particulars please call Salve at 0917-4110154/826-2819.

Independence Day jobs fair

SOME 10,000 LOCAL AND OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR job seekers will be made available at the 2006 Independence Day Jobs and Livelihood Fair set at the Luneta Park, Lagoon Area from 8 to 4 p.m., in Manila on June 12, the Department of Labor and Employment (Dole) announced. A mega jobs fair will also be held at the Quezon City Hall area, and other areas across the country in celebration of the country's 108th Independence Day. Other local and/or overseas jobs fairs have also been scheduled nationwide: June 7 to 8 - Provincial Convention Center, Dipolog City, Zamboanga Del Norte; June 10 to 11 - Sagay City Gymnasium, Negros Occidental; June 12 - DOLE-Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) Building, Cabinet Hill, Baguio City; Municipality of Rosales, Pangasinan; SM Entertainment Plaza at Clarkfield, Pampanga; SM Sta. Rosa, Laguna; Emilio Aguinaldo Shrine at Kawit, Cavite; Molave Coliseum, Molave, Zamboanga Del Sur; Fitmart Mall, Koronadal City; and, June 15 to 16, 2006 - Pagadian City Sports Complex, Pagadian City.

MRII twice hits top in licensure exams

The MANILA REVIEW INSTITUTE, INC. (MRII) TWICE HITS TOP SPOTS IN THE two recent licensure examinations: 1) for the Chemical Engineers on April 24-26; and 2) for the Master Plumbers on March 21-23, bagging the first, second, eight and ninth places for the former and the first to the ninth place except only for the fifth and the sixth places for the latter. Topping the Chemical Engineering licensure examination are 1) Fra Olalem R. Cinco, 1st place, UP-Diliman; 2) Mary Ann Rose C. Somera, 2nd Place, UP-Diliman; 3) Miguel Carlo A. Hipolito, 8th place, Mapua Institute of Technology, and 4) Shirleen M. Sharma, 9th Place, UP-Diliman. For the Master Plumber, the topnotchers are 1) Marlon C. Dagasao, 1st place, Divine Word College of Laoag; 2) Jose I. Hizon, Jr. , 2nd place, Mapua Institute of Technology; 3) Rainiero R. Trovela, 3rd place, National University; 4) Joseph M. Antolin, 4th place, De La Salle University-Manila; 5) Arly L. Samson, 7th place, University of the Assumption-Pampanga; 6) Jose Arnel P. Juan, 8th place, Mapua Institute of Technology; and 7) Dennis C. Dizon, 9th place, Polytechnic University of the Philippines. MRII is at the 3rd Floor Consuelo Building, 929 Nicanor Reyes St. (formerly Morayta), Manila. For inquiries, call 735-0112 to 14 or e-mail MRII at mrii@tri-isys.com.

No topic too huge for KNN youth reporters

WE WRITE, WE SHOOT, WE REPORT – THAT IS THE WORLD OF THE KABATAAN News Network (KNN) youth reporters. Thanks to their partners, United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) and the Probe Media Foundation, KNN reporters are continuously trained to become responsible media practitioners. Recently, 39 youth reporters and 12 adult bureau managers had training at the Astoria Plaza Hotel, Ortigas Center, Pasig on human rights advocacy to equip them with the necessary know-how in relaying sensitive topics. KNN is a 30-minute tell-all, bare-all tele-magazine program by the youth, for the youth. Catch KNN, hosted by Atom Araullo, Chiyomi Rances and Apple Fale, every Saturday, 3 p.m. at ABC Channel 5.

Carat wins adidas/Reebok global consolidation pitch

JOCELYN F. DOMINGO, PRESIDENT, Carat Philippines announced Carat will handle the planning and buying of media for both the adidas and Reebok brands worldwide, with estimated billings of US$272 million. Carat pitched for both adidas and Reebok, supported by specialist digital services from Isobar.

"The decision to award Carat the global consolidation business is the result of a thorough pitch process which began in February, and ended with a very closely run contest between Carat and OMD (who manage Reebok's European media)," Domingo said.

"In Asia Pacific, Carat has worked closely with adidas since 2002. Carat's partnership with adidas has culminated in some of the most innovative and engaging work in the lead up to the 2006 World Cup and this momentum is sure to continue as the Beijing Olympics will be a defining moment in sports marketing," Thomas Wong, CEO Carat Asia North added.

Uli Becker, head of global brand marketing at adidas said, "We were fortunate to have had two very qualified agency finalists, Carat and OMD, who continued to raise the bar every time we met with them. This was a tremendously difficult decision for all the key stakeholders from the Group because of the high caliber of the agencies' teams. We chose Carat for their strong strategic vision and their commitment to our business. We are confident that Carat will extend our successful partnership to deliver growth of the adidas and Reebok brands through the World Cup to the Beijing Olympics and beyond."

David Verklin, chief executive officer, Carat Americas and chair, Carat Asia Pacific said, "This was a genuine team effort. The dedication and talent of all the people involved in the pitch around the world was outstanding. What also clearly helped us was the excellent performance on adidas from all of our markets over the last 2 years."

"At the end of the day, adidas/Reebok saw Carat and Isobar as the agencies with the clearest vision of the future," Jocelyn Domingo added.

MERCURY DRUG HOLDS OBL

On March 1, Mercury Drug celebrated its 61st anniversary by conducting the 'Operation Bigay Lunas' (OBL) in 61 cities and municipalities nationwide. The OBL is an annual, simultaneous, one-day free consultations and medicines for indigent patients. It aims to serve more than 120,000 indigents this year. This undertaking is strongly supported by its business partners, provincial governors, city and municipal mayors. This is Mercury Drug's way of thanking its customers who constantly patronize and support the company.

FUND RAISING PROJECT

Photo shows the fund raising project conducted by the new village fire volunteers at Sekai building in Ortigas. Present are fire chief Sherwin Lim, deputy firechief Jacinto Gan Jr and secretary general Jayson So.

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Mayflower dim sum feast at the Café of Dusit Hotel

THE CAFÉ UNVEILS THE SECRET OF DUSIT Thani Bangkok's famed Mayflower Restaurant to bring you a dim sum feast fit for Emperors from June 16 to 25. Dim Sum has significantly been part of the Chinese tradition of xiao chi (afternoon tea) and The Café lets you relish this rich tradition by offering 15 mouth-watering varieties to delight your appetite.

Savor a delectable balance of rich textures and delicate flavors of Mayflower's best selling dim sum specials like Shrimp wonton with salad sauce, Crab legs with minced shrimp, Seaweed with shrimp in brown sauce, among others for only P950 ++ during lunch and dinner buffet and P500 nett for the afternoon snack buffet.

A special session on Dim Sum Cooking is organized every Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. (class is inclusive when availing the afternoon snack buffet). There are only twenty slots allotted per session for the Dim Sum cooking lessons. Advance booking is advised.

For inquiries and reservations, please call Dusit Hotel Nikko at 867-3333.

A toast for dads at Mandarin Oriental

MANDARIN ORIENTAL, MANILA FETES ALL dads on Sunday, June 18 with exquisite meals and luxurious room packages replete with warm pampering and giveaways, to make their day extra special.

Dads who dine in any of Mandarin Oriental's restaurants on Father's Day get a chance to win on-the-spot a fabulous gift via "Pick-A-Prize", which includes Aramis fragrances from Rustan's Essences, gift certificates from Ménage Salon, and sterling silver charms from Michelis Jewelry.

Throughout the month of June, Globe Platinum cardholders enjoy an additional treat as Dads get a complimentary Businessman's Lunch, P1,100+++; or Degustation Dinner Set Menu, P2,400+++, with a minimum of three paying adults upon presentation of their Globe Platinum card. Includes a choice of a complimentary bottle of red wine (Montes, Cabernet Sauvignon, Reserve), or white wine (Montes, Sauvignon Blanc, Reserve).

Mandarin Oriental's creative culinary team has prepared delectable creations to delight fathers. At the Paseo Uno, special lunch and dinner buffets will be offered at P1,488+++, adult; P788+++, child (5 to 12 years old).

Splendid dishes for lunch and dinner await The Tivoli's discerning diners, with a lunch menu that proffers appetizer and dessert buffets with choice of one of four main courses at P1,688+++, adult; P888+++, child, and a five-course dinner set menu at P2,188+++, adult; P1,188+++, child.

At Tin Hau, authentic Chinese deluxe lunch and dinner buffets will be available at P1,288+++, adult; P688+++, child.

Pamper dad with a luxuriously relaxing retreat by booking a weekend room package for local residents. Room rates start at P4,500++ for an overnight stay for two persons in a Superior room, inclusive of Paseo Uno breakfast, and a 20 percent discount for the first Oriental Spa massage. Special Daddy treats for a one-night stay include a bottle of wine; and for a minimum of two-nights' stay, a 45-minute Spa reliever in-room massage comes with this specially designed package. Room-only rates start at P3,800++ for a Superior room. The Father's Day package is valid for all weekends of June. An extra bed for a child under 12 years old, sharing room with parents is offered complimentary.

Specially prepared gift hampers for dad which start at P 1,000+++ will be available at the Mandarin Deli from June 12 to 18, in addition to the delectable a la carte menu of homemade breads and pastries, light hearty meals, gourmet sandwiches, fresh salads, plus a choice of two daily specials.

For enquiries and reservations, call 750 8888 extension 2401 (food and beverage) and extension 2304 (room reservations).

The Bellevue Hotel's treat on Dad's Day

FOR ALL THE TIMES HE LET you stay out late on a school night, bought your favorite things or took care of all your family's needs, dad deserves his treat this time! At The Bellevue Hotel, dad gets all the rest and relaxation he needs with the Father's Day Blowout promo. For only P4,000++ per night on June 16 to 18, give dad his own quiet time at a posh executive suite or join him for a bit of bonding. Get a 20 percent discount on dining outlets plus a welcome discount card on selected items at Rustans Department Store. Other perks include breakfast buffet at the Café D' Asie for two, use of swimming pool and gym facilities, complimentary shuttle service to nearby malls and business districts, welcome drink at 20/20 Entertainment Bar, welcome fruit plate, two bottles of mineral water replenished daily and local newspaper. Dads are also invited to a Father's Day Special Brunch Buffet on June 18 for only P795++. Plus, Rustan's Alabang will be have a 1-day sale from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Special giveaways from Wilcon, Travel Club and Globe also will be granted to diners and daddies. Happy Dad's Day!

Freedom to choose from among a myriad of Filipino favorites is what The Bellevue Hotel offers as it celebrates Independence Day. On June 10 to 12 during lunch and dinner, enjoy an assortment of the nation's best dishes with the Special Kalayaan Buffet. Choose from among juicy lechon, sumptuous crispy pata, sinigang na sugpo and more. Native Filipino products from different regions of the country are also available. Support proudly Philippine-made products and hail the freedom to feast! For inquiries, call 771-8181.

People, Events & Products

JimenezBasic wins TV Ad of the Year

JIMENEZBASIC TOOK HOME two major awards during the Kalibre.22 Awards Night of the 22nd Creative Guild Ad of the Year Awards. The agency won the TV Ad of Year and Best in Copy Craftsmanship Award, both for Cadbury's Halls "Wrapper-ra" Promo TV ad.

It is the first time that a promo TV ad won as ad of the year in the history of the Creative Guild.

Creative directors Lawin Bulatao, Third Domingo and art director Lec Flores went up the stage to receive the prestigious awards in behalf of the team which includes account directors Jade Amon and Lisa Infante, producers Paul Suarez, Noel Enriquez and Lisa de Guia , and Unitel Productions.

The Creative Guild also conferred the Lifetime Achievement Award to the agency's joint CEOs Mon Jimenez and Abby Jimenez. The Guild bestowed this award upon Mon and Abby, both former creatives, for successfully building a business partnership that blossomed into one of the most powerful Filipino advertising brands and for proving that creatives can run a successful advertising business. As the Guild proclaimed - "what creatives can conceive, creatives can achieve."

In separate speeches, Mon and Abby thanked those who helped them when the agency started. They also urged all the creatives to continue the fight for creativity, not to be discouraged by the negative changes in the industry today.

OPTIMA DISPLAY SYSTEMS JOINS FPP MINDANAO 2006

Optima Display Systems Company will participate as one of the exhibitors in Mindanao's major food event, the FPP Mindanao 2006 (Food Processing and Packaging Technology Expo) to be held from June 21 to 24, at the Bangko Sentral, Davao City organized by Premier Events Plus Group Inc (PEPGroup). Optima Display Systems Co, is a custom manufacturer of European designed showcases and merchandising display for the food retailing industry. It has become one of the pioneers in the manufacturing of modern merchandise counters in the Philippines. FPP Mindanao 2006 will coincide with the FPP Mindanao Summit, a series of technical sessions and maintenance, international food labeling, environmental compliance for the food sector, complete thermal process monitoring system among many other related topics. For interested participants or any update on FPP Mindanao, check website at www.fppmindanao.com or email info@PEPGroup.com, or call Manila nos. (02)929-7993 or (02)436-4209 or (02)435-4790 or call cellular nos. 0917-5302251 or 0921-3303740. In photo, from left, Joel Pascual, president of PepGroup and Tony Wang, president and general manager of Optima Display.

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(PDI-June 10 2006)

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Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines will receive sealed bids on June 21, 2006, 2:00 p.m., 12th Floor, Suite 4, Executive Lounge of the DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City for the following properties on **CASH BASIS:**

CODE NO.	DESCRIPTION	AREA (sq.m.)	LOCATION		Minimum Bid
REAL ESTATE					
METRO MANILA					
AM-RT-127	House and lot (TCT T-100505)	370	No. 24, Tulip Road, Pilar Village, Almanza, Las Piñas City	P	2,454,300.00
CAVITE					
AM-FD-128	House and lot (TCT T-1143334)	42	Road Lot 8, Regal Homes, Brgy. Alapan I, Imus	P	167,600.00
CEBU					
AM-DE-129	House and lot (TD No. 15387)	449	Poblacion, Compostela	P	797,000.00
BOG-001	Residential/commercial lot (TCT 153689) with residential/ apartment bldg. & imp.	1,045	General Echavez St., Brgy. Zapatera, Cebu City	P	8,500,000.00
DAVAO					
AM-RT-130	3 contiguous residential lots (TCT Nos. T-369591, T-369590 & T-369589) with bldgs.	2,235	Tacunan Road, Catalunan Grande, Davao City	P	5,125,000.00
GENERAL SANTOS					
AM-DE-131	Residential lot (TCT No.T-99816) with residential bldgs.	400	Paralejas Subdivision, City Heights, General Santos City	P	815,900.00
LAGUNA					
STR-ERM	10 individually titled lot (TCT Nos. T-344369, T-344370, T-344371, T-344372, T-344373, T-344374, T-344375, T-344376 (road lot), T-342544, T-342545) being utilized as resort compound consisting of a resort hotel, an executive house / residence with attic, 2-storey reception / seminar hall, ten (10) units family cottages, a chapel, twenty (20) units picnic huts, a gazebo, comfort rooms, swimming pools, landscaping/ waterscaping, windmill, restaurant, guard house, walkway/pathway, parking lot, and perimeter fence.	10,000	Brgy. Bagong Kalsada, Calamba City	P	56,102,400.00
(CHATTELS - Sale on "as is where is basis")					
AM-PY-132	One (1) lot coconut oil processing equipment		Brgy. Banao, Guinobatan, Albay	P	1,408,400.00

BIDDERS ARE REMINDED:

1. To inspect the properties to determine their actual condition before the bidding;
2. To submit in DBP's official bid form available at the AMD-Acquired Assets, Ground Floor, DBP Head Office during office hours; and
3. To be on time. No bids will be accepted once unsealing of the bids commences. The sale shall be subject to other terms and conditions which may be imposed by the Bank.

DBP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE BANK IS FINAL AND BINDING.

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers: 892-1566/893-7172 or 818-9511 local 2158/2159 for Code starting with AM, (049) 534-2820 to 21 for STR and 818-9511 loc. 1707.

ASSET MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

(PDI – June 9 & 10, 2006)

OBITUARIES

> *"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."*
> *Psalm 23:4,6*

Our Dearly Beloved

PEDRO C. SEDILLA

(of Malabon City)

Has gone to his eternal rest in the arms of his Creator on 08 June 2006 at the age of 80.

His bereaved wife Purificacion; children: Danilo and Rosalie, Ramon and Josie, Cynthia and Danny, Cesar and Cora, Vicky, Fe and Minu; grandchildren: Danie Rose and Ramir, DJ, Nat and Lygia, Donalyn, RJ, Jasmine, Raffy, Dennis, Cindy, Chino, Charmaine, Ruchelle and Rainie request for your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Sto. Rosario Chapel, Sto. Rosario Village, Malabon City.

Cremation will be on Sunday, 11 June 2006 at Ever Memorial Garden.

ENRIQUETA Q. PECACHE

Peacefully joined our Lord on June 8, 2006, at the age of 92.

She joins her husband **Leon**, children **Eleanor** and **Edgar Carrillo.** She leaves behind her children **Benjie** and **Josie Pecache**; grandchildren **Lissa** and **Jona Sandejas, Pattie** and **Tim Urschel, Tina** and **Mike Marcelo, Joel Pecache, Edwin Carrillo, Edward** and **Therese Carrillo**; great-grandchildren **Derrick, Clarissa, David, Karina** and **John**; relatives and close friends who request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the St. Martin Chapel, Sto. Domingo Church, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, the 11th of June 2006, at the Manila South Cemetery, Makati City, after the 2:00 P.M. Mass in Sto. Domingo Church.

Dr. TADEO ALFONSO "SONNY" JUDIT AGUIRRE (M.A., PhD)

October 28, 1940 – June 4, 2006

In eternity, he is now united with his beloved wife **Amb. SOLITA MARQUEZ AGUIRRE**(+)

His daughters and son in law **Laura & Vincent Aguinaldo** and **Sarah Aguirre**, brother and sister in law **Jeanne & Emilie Aguirre**, nieces **Jemilynne & Chris Cooper, Mitzi Gaile, Mitzi Joyce, Maida Grace,** and **Dorothy**, grandchildren **Matthew Benedict, Hannah Beata, Zoe Airabelle Aguinaldo & Amerynne Cooper**, other relatives and friends request the readers to pray for the repose of his soul.

Funeral Mass will be held at **Our Lady of Fatima Parish** in Binakayan, Kawit, Cavite at 2:30 PM, June 13, 2006. Interment follows at Maryridge Oratory, Tamayo, Batangas.

In Loving Memory of

Gina Katigbak Lagdameo

On the occasion of her Eleventh Death Anniversary, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass shall be offered today, June 10, 2006 at the St. James the Greater Parish, Ayala Alabang at 6:20 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. and at the Santuario de San Antonio Parish, Forbes Park at 6:15 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 12:15 p.m., 4:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Ernest, Martin and **Bianca**, as well as the Katigbak and Lagdameo families request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord." 2 Corinthians 5:8

In Loving Memory of the
SECOND DEATH ANNIVERSARY
OF

Hon. Voltaire "Butch" Ylagan Rosales

Who died on June 10, 2004 in
Tanauan City, Batangas

..A loving husband, father, son and brother
A true friend
The public's good servant but God's first

His family requests relatives and friends to join them in praying for the eternal repose of his soul and for justice to be finally served.

Masses will be offered on June 10, 2006 at the following churches:

SAINT JOHN BOSCO
Makati City
6:30am and 6:00pm mass

SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO
Forbes Park, Makati City
All masses

NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE SACRED HEART
San Antonio Village, Makati City
All masses

SAN ALPHONSUS DE LIGUORI
Magallanes, Makati City
6:00am and 6:00pm mass

PARISH OF THE HOLY CHILD
Makato, Aklan
6:00am and 6:00pm mass

PERPETUAL HELP
Aplaya, Batangas
6:00am and 6:00pm mass

CATHEDRAL OF KALIBO
Kalibo, Aklan
6:00am and 6:00pm mass

ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER
Numancia, Aklan
6:00am and 6:00pm mass

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH
Bauan, Batangas
6:00am and 6:00pm mass

ARCHDIOCESE OF LIPA CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST
Tanauan, Batangas
6:00am and 6:00pm mass

SAN ROQUE PARISH
Poblacion, Tingloy Batangas
6:00pm mass

More Classified Ads: National Food Authority-Region VIII & Public Estates Authority's Invitation to Bid on page A19.

DELFIN CONCEPCION SIBAL

of Bamban, Tarlac and San Juan, Metro Manila

Peacefully joined his Creator on June 9, 2006
at the age of 80.

His beloved wife, **Asteria** (Aster/Terry); daughter **Regina**; grandchildren, **Chiqui, Carlo,** and **Mimsy**; brothers, sisters and in-laws, **Marcelo (†) & Marcelina (†), Delfina & Leopoldo (†), Bregaudit, Resurreccion (†) & Rosauro Desiderio, Esmyrna & Sotero Jacob, Norma & Jesus Nolasco, Angelina & John Batillas,** and **Ernesto, Beatriz (†) & Francisco (†) Feria**, nephews and nieces request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Mortuary Chapel of the Santuario del Santo Cristo, 106 F. Blumentritt St., San Juan, Metro Manila.

Interment will be on Monday, June 12, 2006 at the Loyola Memorial Park Marikina, after the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at 9:00 am at the Santuario del Santo Cristo.

"There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heaven..."
Ecclesiastes 3:11

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

Victoria R. Caringal

who joined her Creator on May 29, 2006

sincerely convey our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who offered prayers, sent flowers, visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and condoled with us in our moment of grief.

We design **OBITUARIES** for free.

BUSINESS

Gov't eyes 11th hour passage of '06 budget

Fiscal managers hope lawmakers will 'take RP's interest at heart'

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND Management has not given up on the much-delayed 2006 budget—a measure economic managers are bent on pushing at the legislature.

According to Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya Jr., the late passage of the proposed P1.053-trillion national budget will be much better for the economy than operating on a reenacted budget. He also believes that there is still a way for the upper and lower chambers of Congress to break the impasse over the proposed budget.

"They are reasonable men," Andaya said, referring to the legislators. "I know that, at the end of the day, they will take the country's interest at heart."

Lawmakers said they could still work on the passage of the 2006 budget when Congress reopens in July. Next month, Congress is supposed to be working on the 2007 budget.

Andaya said that although his office is already preparing the 2007 budget, the 2006 budget may still be inserted in the congressional schedule.

Earlier, the country's economic team had expressed grave concern over the Senate's move to cut the proposed budget. The team said the move would derail initiatives that would boost the government's weak spending for infrastructure.

The Senate's position of approving only a P1.027-trillion budget for this year differed greatly from that of the Lower House, which sought to keep the proposed budget intact.

"The country has suffered from lack of infrastructure, and this has dampened private investment," the economic team said in a joint statement. "It is unfortunate that the nation lags behind its Asian neighbors in the ratio of national government capital outlays to gross domestic product."

The team includes Andaya, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves, Trade and Industry Secretary Peter Favila, Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla, and Socio-economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri.

The economic managers said that the Philippines' capital outlay-to-GDP ratio stood at 2.39 percent—much lower than that of neighboring countries. Indonesia has 8.25 percent; Vietnam has 8.19 percent; Malaysia, 6.15 percent; Singapore, 5.29 percent; China, 3.99 percent; and Thailand, 2.85 percent.

The economic team said the government decided to frontload expenditures in the early part to pump-prime the economy. Should the government operate on a reenacted budget, then it would have to tighten expenditures in the second half.

"These efforts (frontloading) are already bearing fruit," the team said in the joint statement. "In the first quarter of 2006, public construction grew by 9.4 percent, in contrast to the [contraction of] 4.6 percent a year ago.

"We badly need the infrastructure spending," they said, adding that with the spending cuts proposed by the Senate, investment growth would decline by a percentage point this year.

One of the projects to be sacrificed under the Senate's proposed budget cut is the Kilos Asenso Movement, a program for building farm-to-market roads, bridges and water systems.

"We understand that they view infrastructure projects with suspicion as they connote pork barrel spending," they said. "We thus make the following commitment ... we, the economic managers, will take full responsibility for the fiscal integrity of the Kilos Asenso ... program."

TEVES

MNCs may file finance reports using other currencies

THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL Revenue has issued a regulation allowing multinational companies to submit financial statements in "functional currencies" in an effort to comply with international accounting standards.

"Functional currency" is the currency of the primary economic environment in which the reporting entity operates, the BIR said in Revenue Regulation No. 6-2006.

But the BIR stressed that multinational companies would not be allowed to use functional currencies in filing income tax returns here.

Under the regulation, companies that would be paying taxes in functional currencies should use the exchange rate at the time of remitting payment to banks acting as collecting agents for the BIR.

The BIR said that in determining the appropriate functional currency to be used, a multinational firm should choose the currency that influences prices of its goods or services, and the currency that mainly influences the cost of its labor, materials and other cost of doing business.

It said that corporate taxpayers therefore are not free to choose what functional currency to use, and should observe the guidelines in determining the appropriate currency to be used in making their financial statement.

Because income tax returns should still be filed using the Philippine peso, corporate taxpayers must translate foreign currency earnings to peso according to the monthly average exchange rate as determined by the Philippine Dealing System.

Due to the adoption of international accounting standards, multinational firms should restate their financial statements for the previous years using their functional currencies. *Michelle V. Remo*

Transco bidders need to post $30-M bond

By Abigail L. Ho

THE POWER SECTOR ASSETS and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) is requiring investors interested in bidding for the National Transmission Corp. (Transco) concession to post a $30-million bid bond to ensure that they will not renege on their commitments.

"The $30-million bid bond is a guarantee that the prequalified bidders will completely, faithfully and promptly comply with their obligations under the bidding procedures, the direct agreement and the final transaction documents," PSALM president Nieves Osorio yesterday said in a statement.

The bid bond should come in the form of an irrevocable standby letter of credit.

The winning bidder will be given three business days after securing the concession to adjust its bid bond to 1 percent of the financial bid.

Upon completion of the transaction, the winning bidder will be required to pay the "commencement fee," which represents 25 percent of the bid price.

The balance may be amortized over a period of up to 15 years and converted to its peso equivalent at a predefined rate.

The deferred portion will carry a PSALM-predetermined interest rate, which is also in line with market rates.

"The deferred payments, representing up to 75 percent of the concession fee, will be denominated in peso, matching Transco's primarily peso revenue streams," Osorio explained.

"Requiring both the upfront and deferred portions to be payable in US dollars, compared to Transco's primarily peso revenue stream, will introduce a very large currency risk for investors," she added.

In addition, the winning concessionaire will be required to maintain throughout the 25-year concession period an irrevocable standby letter of credit to ensure the fulfillment of its obligations.

The letter of credit must be reinstated to its full amount after any drawdown by Transco, PSALM said.

PSALM had earlier announced that it would be auctioning off the Transco concession by September.

Interested investors have until July 18 to submit their expressions of interest to qualify for the bidding.

Commercial banks' real estate lending fell in Q1

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE EXPOSURE OF PHILIPPINE commercial banks to real estate eased by 2 percent in the first quarter to P203.3 billion a quarter ago due to reduced lending to the sector, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported yesterday.

After two consecutive quarters of growth, real estate lending dropped by 2.6 percent to P186.3 billion from P191.2 billion a quarter ago, thus trimming overall exposure to the property sector.

Real estate loans comprised 91.6 percent of the total commercial bank,exposure to the real estate industry.

"Several banks posted reductions in their real estate loans during the quarter, mostly due to payments made by borrowers," the BSP reported.

On the other hand, exposure in the form of investments in securities issued by real estate companies even went up by P700 million to about P17 billion from a quarter ago.

This represented the remaining 8.4 percent of banks' exposure to real estate.

Most real estate loans were granted for the construction and development of real estate properties for commercial purposes, including infrastructure projects, comprising 82.1 percent of total real estate lending.

The remaining 17.9 percent was utilized for the acquisition of residential units by individual homeowners.

The bulk of the loans representing 97.3 percent was held by universal and commercial banks, while the remaining 2.7 percent was accounted for by their trust departments.

Meanwhile, past due real estate loans dropped by 10 percent to P26.3 billion—easing the past due ratio to 14.1 percent from 15.3 percent of total real estate lending.

The BSP said the improvement in the past due ratio was due to banks' rigorous collection, restructuring and foreclosure efforts.

The past due ratio on real estate lending in the first quarter marked an improvement from the 20.9 percent ratio a year ago.

The ratio of combined real estate loans and investments in real estate companies to banks' total outstanding loans, exclusive of inter-bank loans, plus total debt and equity investments stood at 5.9 percent.

This was lower than the 6 percent ratio last quarter but slightly higher than the 5.8 percent ratio posted a year ago.

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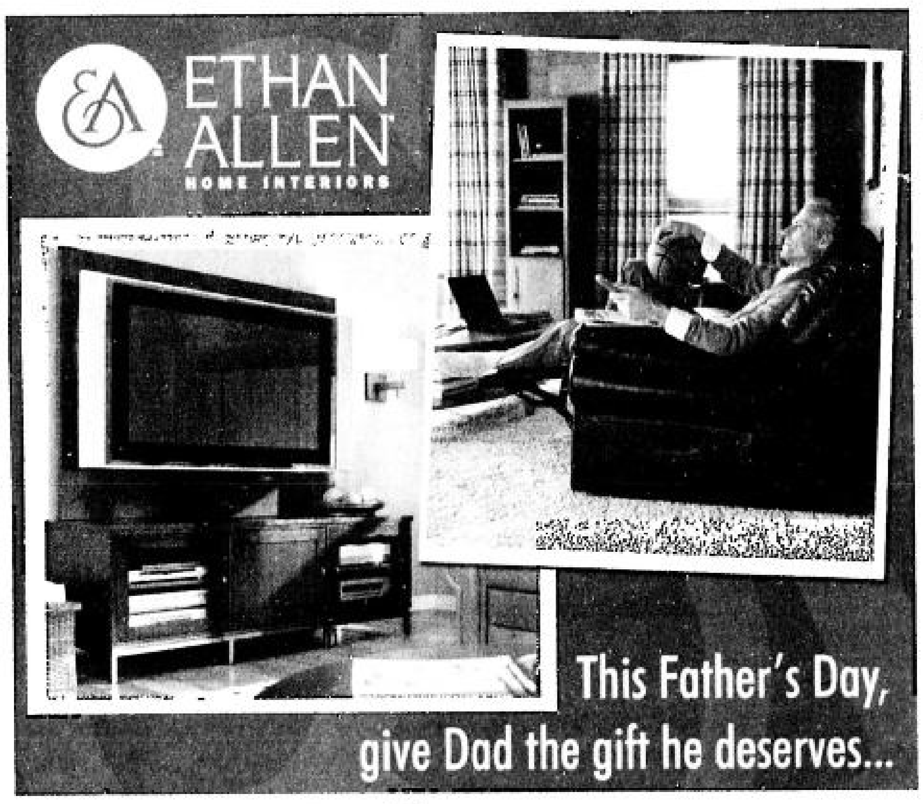
Editor **Pam Pastor**
Creative Director **Tim Yap**

Teendependence day

Celebrate Indepence Day with the PBB teens, Cars' animator Nelson Bohol, Gerry Alanguilan's new comic book, World Cup Games at Gweilos and Raya Martin's art film

Photography: EMMAN MONTALVAN
Sittings Editor: DAVID MILAN
Digital Imaging: LA MISTADES
Styling: THE LEFT TO RIGHT GANG
Makeup: The Shu Uemura Team: BENJIE ANGELES, CLAIRE DIOKNO, MICKEY SEE and XENG ZULUETA
Hair: FELICITY SON using Kiehl's Stylist Series
Cover stars: PBB Teen Big Three: GERALD, KIM and MIKEE



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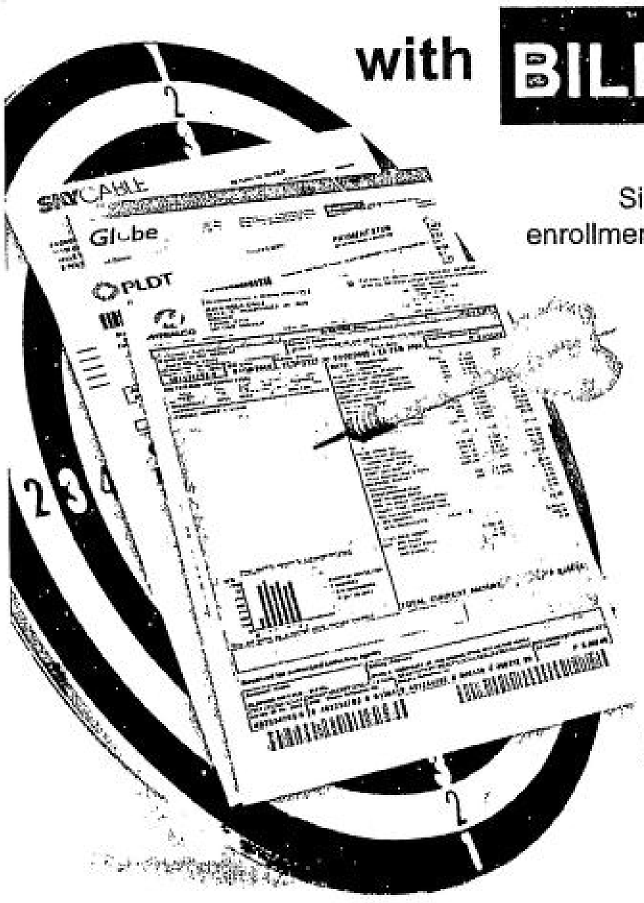

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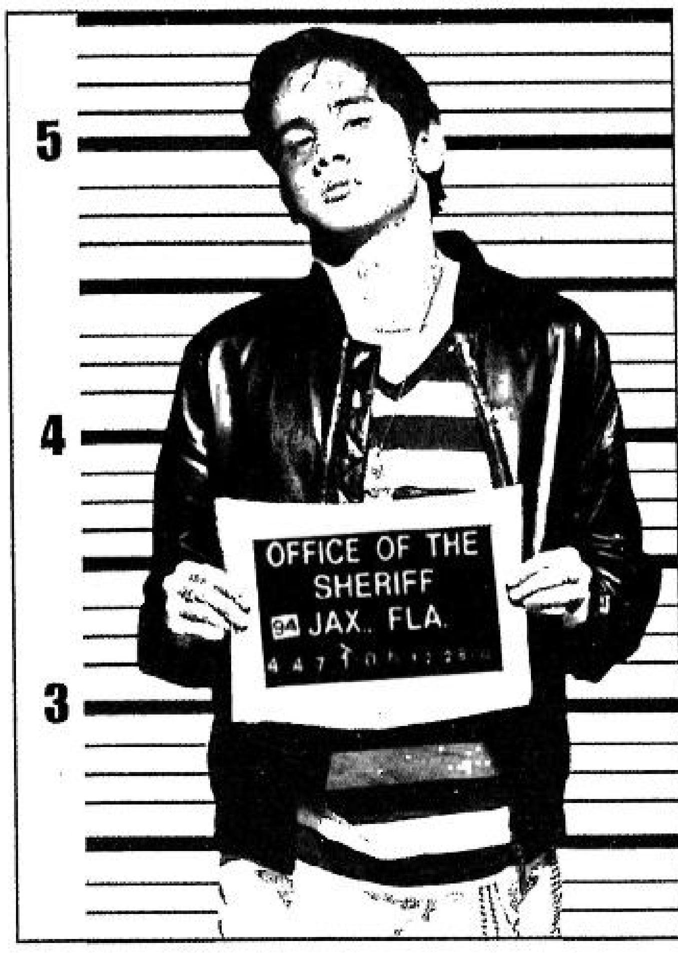
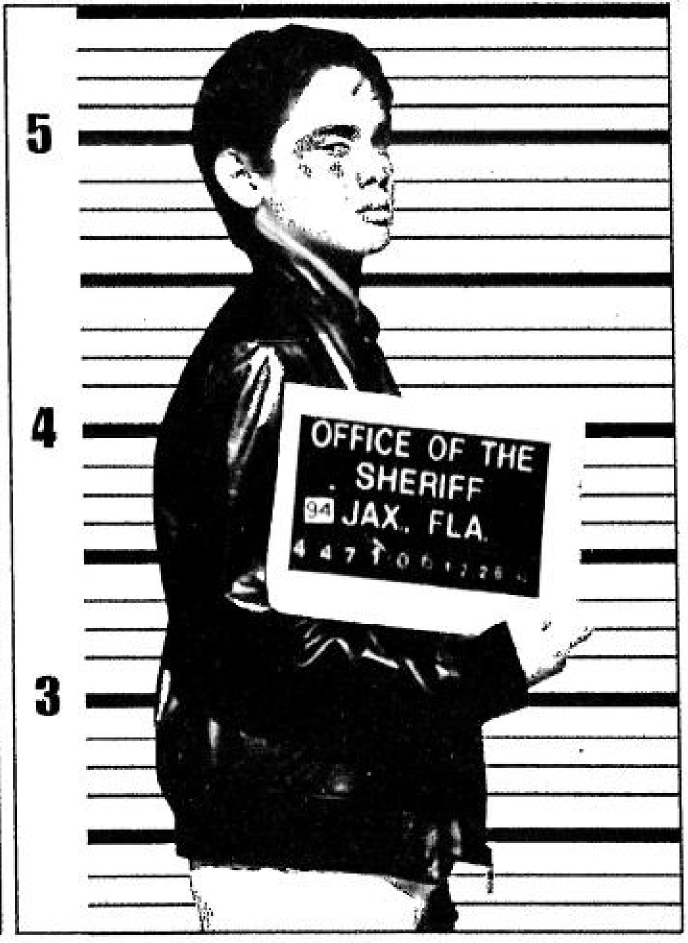
AS PART OF SUPERB'S ANNIVERSARY SEASON, WE ASKED YOUR TEEN HOUSEMATES TO POSE AS CARICATURES OF THIS GENERATION

Mikki and Olyn

Two female housemates in hot holding hands action! We live under such microscopes today, every little thing seems so big. Or is that the way we want it?





Drugs. Sex. Sloth. Please.

By Pepe Diokno

WE DECIDED TO DO A spread on what a lot of people say our generation is—apathetic, sex-crazy, media-obesessed, religionless druggies with parental issues and *mondo* insecurity.

Why? Because we can.

Because we enjoy getting mail from your parents. Because your parents will hide this from you. Because you will definitely find it. And we're glad you will.

Yeah, come on. Look at the pictures—check out that drugged out guy looking so cool. Look at that girl, holding hands with a boy, looking so cool. Look at that boy with a black eye! He looks so cool.

You should do that. (10,000 e-mails right there.)

Disobey your parents! Have premarital sex! Don't go to church! Coool.

Drugs. Sex. Sloth. Please! (Another one million e-mails.)

We decided to do a spread what a lot of people say our generation is because we realize a lot of you read us to find out what's cool and we need to tell you you shouldn't be doing that.

Because it's never been about going with the flow and fitting in. It's not about what's in and out. It's not about what you've tried and what you haven't. We're the ME generation—it's about creating our own flows.

It's about creating your own cool.

The pressure is on

Yeah, there is pressure to be the caricatures we see around us but this pressure does not come from talking about drugs and sex. The pressure comes from inside us.

It's a bad side effect of living in the ME generation—everyday's a struggle for validation and we turn to our peers to get it. We copy other people to get this validation, then we tweak ourselves and extreme-ify things to appease our superegos. It's like we wanna be normal, but at the same time we don't.

The pressure will always be there. But we gotta know what to do about it.

We need to be able to talk about issues. Thank Buddha there are people willing to do this. We saw a bunch of them in last month's "Pinoy Big Brother: Teen Edition."

This openness brings this ME generation together. This openness might make this the most real generation ever. Heck, it'll make 16 year olds say, "Drugs. Sex. Sloth. Oh please."

That's if they say the word "oh."

Super Sarcasm Alert [illegible]

PHOTOGRAPHY:
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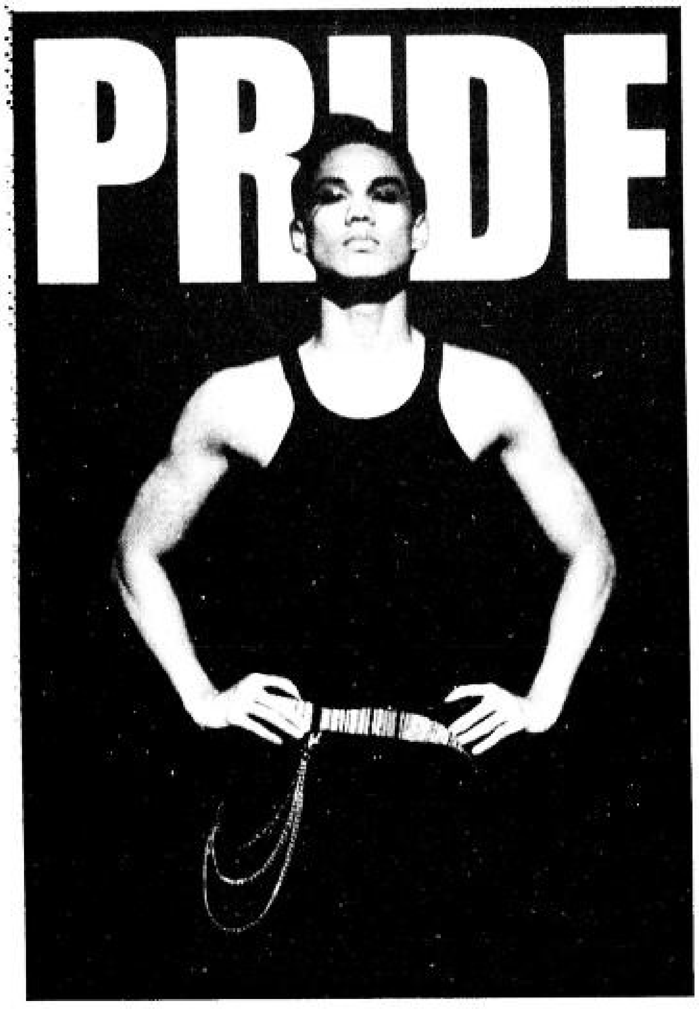
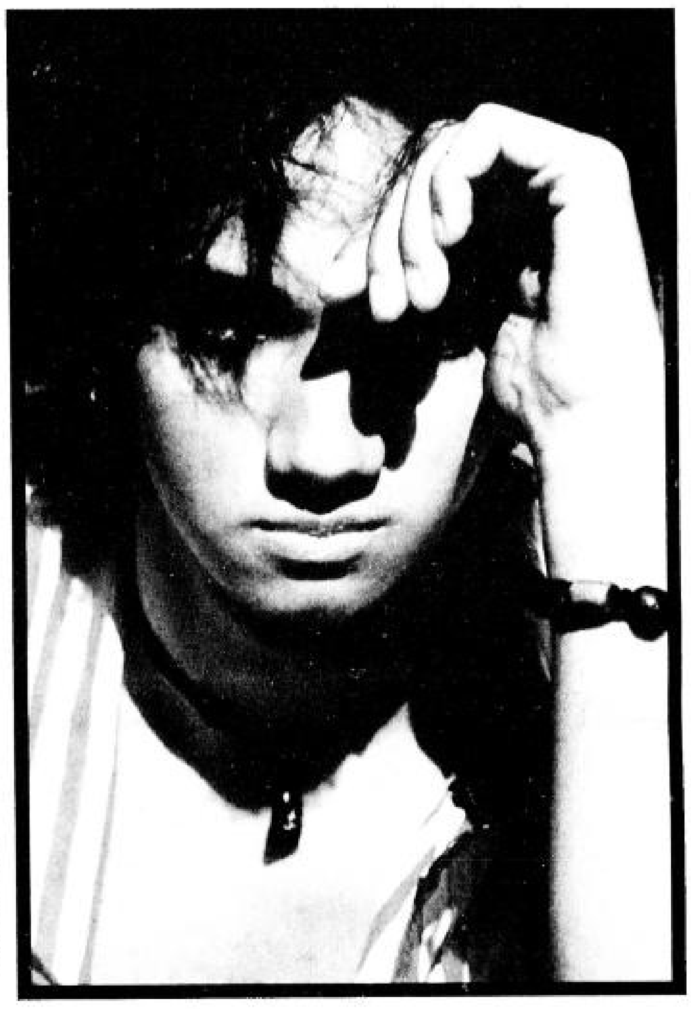


Fred

They're everywhere. But it's not like they are germs. It's surprising how such a conservative society accepts homosexuality. But acceptance doesn't guarantee equality, and a bunch of ME generation homosexuals are standing up and saying they are just like you and me.

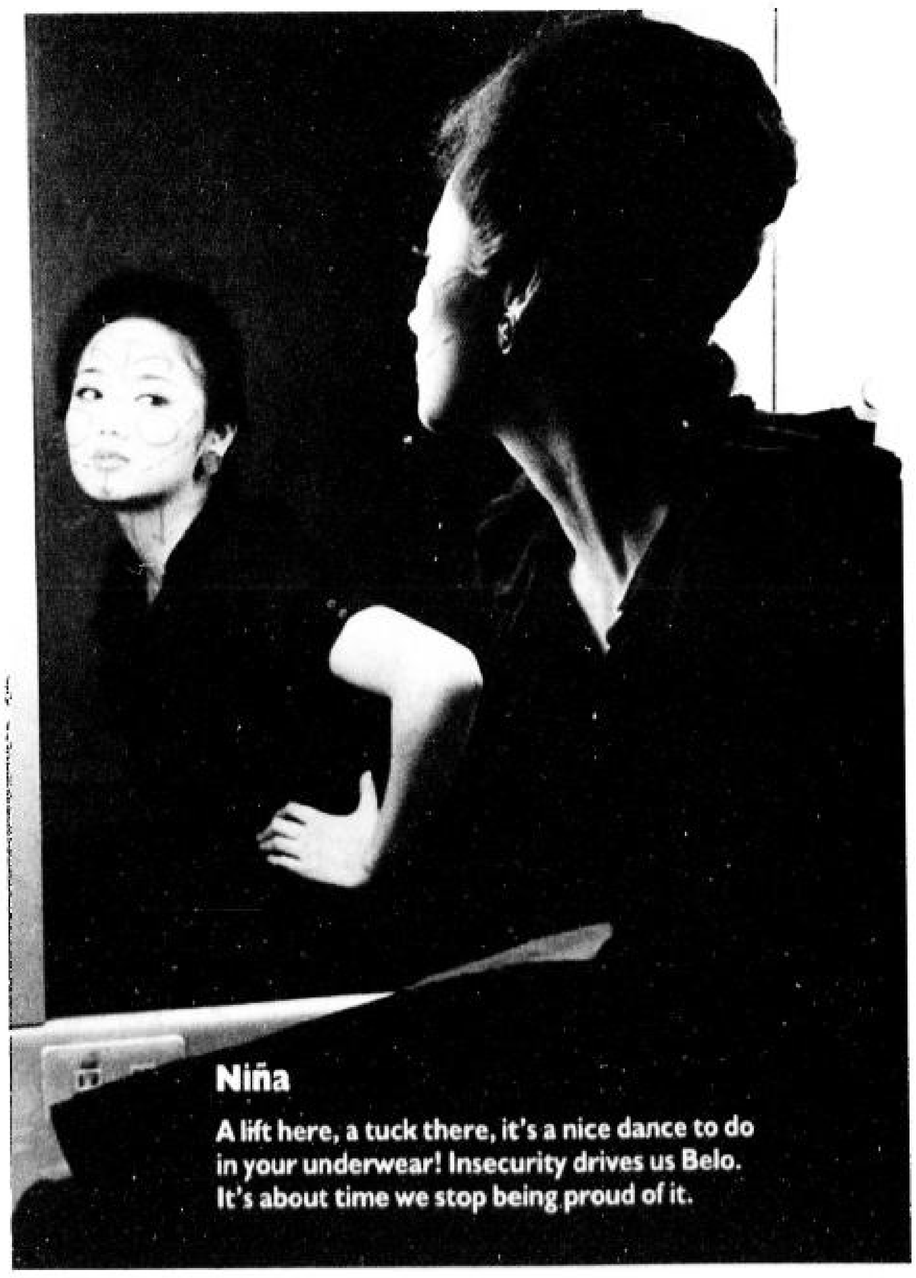
Bam

Sometimes, finding the meaning of life involves three days without bathing and getting your butt fused to a couch. Confucius says.



Matt

Depression's a word we say a lot these days. Some of us think that means black clothes and nail polish. But MEs grow further apart and it's actually a real problem now.



Niña

A lift here, a tuck there, it's a nice dance to do in your underwear! Insecurity drives us Belo. It's about time we stop being proud of it.

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qui

not the ONE campaign, it's a juvenile delin-
nt!

ne on, fights are so grade school. There's
or.two of you that still do it and we have a
e for you. George Bush. Not cool.

Costume credits:
Mikee and Gerald: Clothes from Paul Smith
Kim: Dress, stylist's own
ikki and Olyn: Clothes and accessories, stylist's own
Joaqui: All clothes from Zara
Fred: Skinny jeans from Zara; belt, stylist's own
Matt: Clothes from Paul Smith
Bam: Shirt from Paul Smith, pajamas, stylist's own
Nina: Dress from Zara
Jamilla: Top from Zara
Brenda: Dress, stylist's own
Aldred: Shirt from Paul Smith

Gerald, Kim and Mikee

Don't you wish you could cut them out and play with them? Some relationships these days are more like puppet shows. It's fun playing with people and stuff. But that's until Tina Fey says you get hit by a bus. Sorry *ka na lang*.

But here's a line that should hit you:

> 'Every man is an island. I stand by that. But clearly some men are island *chains*. Underneath, they are connected.'— *About a Boy*

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Per DTI-NCR Permit no 0976 Series of 2006

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Jamila

What is sex these days? Is it a flower or a bottle of wine? Or crackers? Probably crackers. The taboo surrounding sex is to blame. I mean, when you discover the Holy Grail is actually crackers, you kinda wanna get a lot of it.

Brenda

What's this, is this a necklace?

Religion isn't as big in our lives as it was to kids 50 years ago. But we're not clueless. We know Jesus … was a man.

Questioning religion is big now. But it isn't this generation distancing itself from faith and God. It is us finding a way to be closer to God—we can't say we found our faith if we haven't even looked for it.

Hey we do talk about religion. Quite a lot. But shhh.

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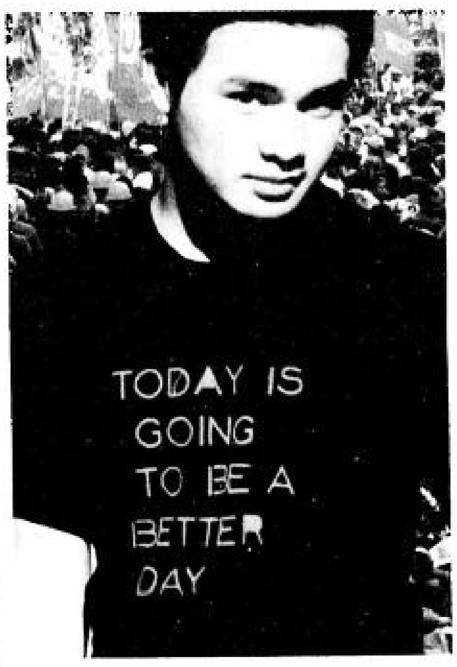
TODAY IS GOING TO BE A BETTER DAY

Aldred

Apathy is not just a word, it looks good on a shirt!

It's confusing times. I have a secret—it's not that we don't care about politics or what's happening to the country. We're just waiting for the people who run it to retire.

THE TEEN Edition "teen" production team: We are ready to audition for Season 2!

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EMMAN MONTALVAN
Sittings Editor: DAVID MILAN
Styling: HANNAH CRUZ,
HARVEY ALUMISIN, JANTHINA FONG,
MONICA DE CASTRO
AND STACY RODRIGUEZ
Makeup: The Shu Uemura Team—
BENJIE ANGELES, CLAIRE DIOKNO,
MICKEY SEE and XENG ZULUETA
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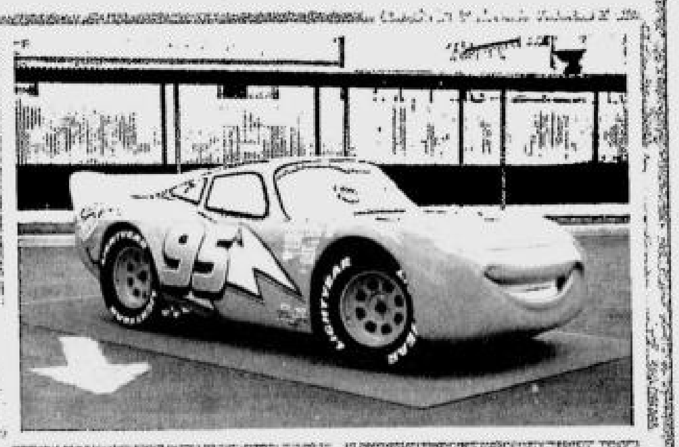
A roaring road trip with Pixar's Nelson Bohol



By Oliver M. Pulumbarit

HE DIDN'T HAVE A GRAND plan to be big in the field of animation, but Pixar's supervising production artist Nelson Bohol eventually landed the coveted job after years of dedication and perseverance in the Philippines. After taking up Architecture at Manuel L. Quezon University in Manila, a friend encouraged him to try out for a job offered by an American animation studio based in Makati. He got hired as a layout artist, and was introduced to the business of creating art for a number of cartoon shows. That was 20 years ago, and the man who had no inkling whatsoever of the animation industry's workings back then would later co-found a studio devoted to layout artwork for foreign animation companies.

In 1996, Bohol was hired by Fox Animation in the United States, and worked there for four busy years until the studio folded. He transferred to Pixar Animation Studios immediately, where he contributed heavily to shaping the worlds of its hit computer-animated films, including "Finding Nemo" and "The Incredibles."

Remember Nemo's aquarium, and Syndrome the arch-villain's island lair? Those are just some of Bohol's handiworks, and the diverse artistic challenges continue to keep him on his toes. In the John Lasseter-directed "Cars," for instance, he was assigned to co-create the look of a weathered town, which is inhabited by friendly, funny automobiles.

Bohol, a "100 percent Pinoy" who resides in East Bay, California, with his family, recently shared insightful tidbits on life as a hard-working production artist in a recent exclusive interview.

How did you get hired by Fox, exactly, and what did you work on while employed there?

Our layout studio in the Philippines got exposure and we were able to get work directly from the US. I think that Filipino talent was being recognized in the field during that time. In just a few years, I was surprised because Fox had a search for their animation arm. They had exams, and I was among the fortunate ones that passed. They took me to Phoenix. That was in 1996. From that year to 2000, we worked on two films, "Anastasia" and "Titan A.E.", and a direct-to-video feature, "Bartok the Magnificent."

Was the move to Pixar easy for you?

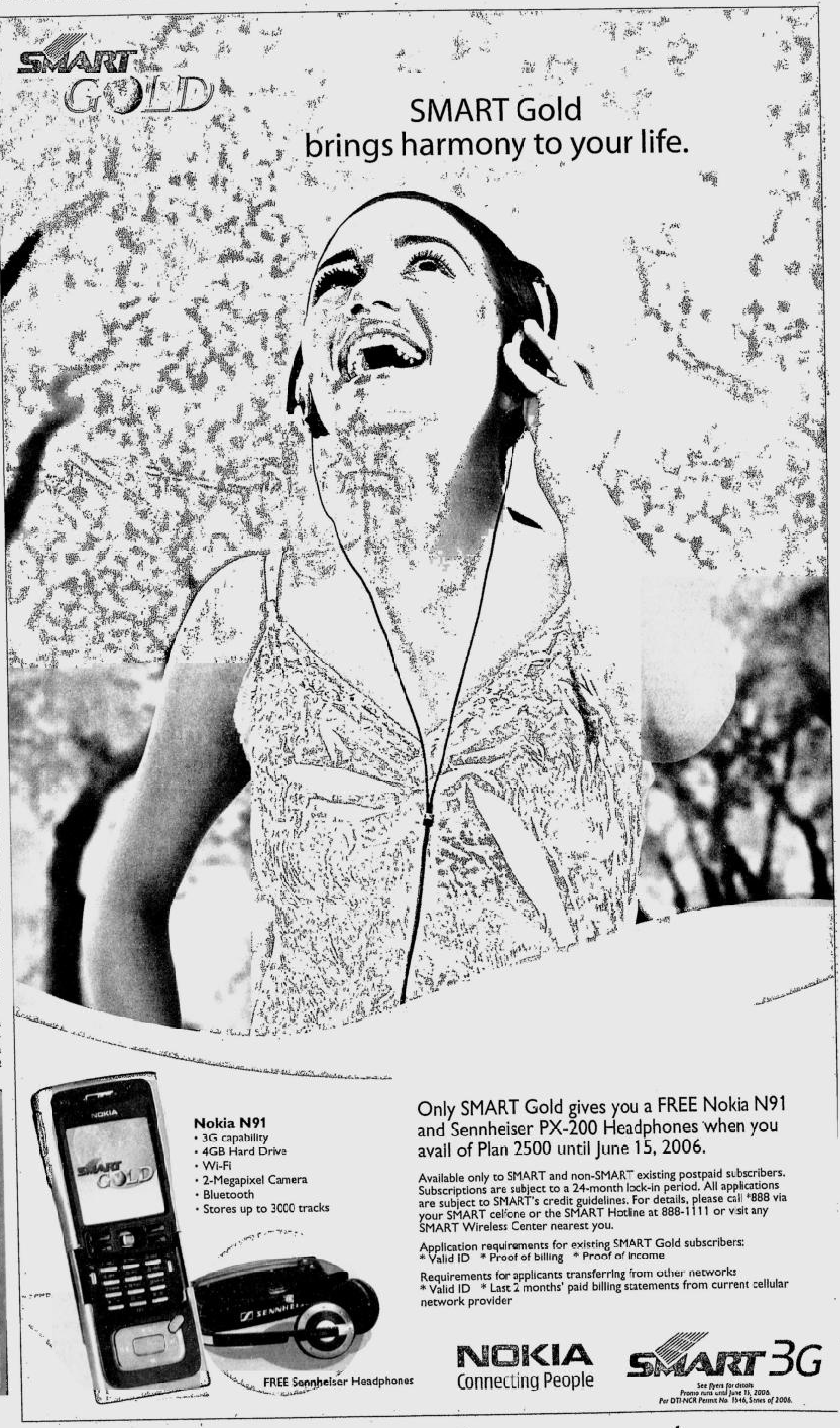
In 2000, Fox Animation closed. My former supervisor moved to Pixar and after a few weeks, he called and said, "Hey, I need you here!" He asked for my portfolio, they liked me, and the rest was history. I'm using my layout experience but right now I'm designing. As a production artist at Pixar, my job is to design environments, props, everything.

How useful is your Architecture background in this field?

It helps a lot. Usually, when we design, we have to show dramatic shots, angles and perspectives. That's where it comes in. If I show a

A ROARING/ D2

OWEN Wilson and John Lasseter



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A roaring road trip with Pixar's Nelson Bohol

From page D1

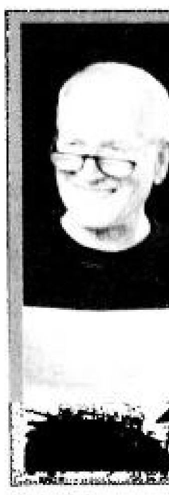
design at a different angle, in a dramatic way, that'll say a lot. The job is awesome! I get to do, like, fun stuff. And I get to create something and everybody sees what I do. I'm, like, so blessed, man. I'm so grateful.

How much of the artwork in your department is done by hand, and by using computers?

It depends. For example, I can do a drawing without shading. Using the computer, you can do some specific shading perfectly and quickly for presentation purposes. It's your decision how to do that. The computer has nothing to do with the basic structure of a design that the director wants. That's when you make up something using your knowledge. But for presentation purposes, the computer can be used to help color or give tonal value. It's not gonna change the design or the structure.

What are your contributions to "Cars"?

When they started production, I was still working on "The Incredibles." We kind of overlapped our work between the two films. But I got some of the design assignments in "Cars," the Radiator Springs town buildings. I got involved with that, but I can't take credit for that entirely. To me, everything here is a team effort. I'm just fortunate to be part of the team that designed Radiator Springs.


PAUL Newman

John Lasseter is very specific with his vision for the film. Was it easy to work with him?

Oh, man. Oh, yeah, John Lasseter knows what he wants. It's easy for us, because we don't have to guess. He's an awesome artist! When he says "I need a design for this," he gives all the details and specifics. You just create that thing that he wanted. He's the most down-to-earth guy that I've seen. I was so nervous during my first meeting with him, because he's basically the king of this project. I was shaking when it was my turn to pitch, or "sell," my work. He told me, "You're fine. Don't worry." I was totally relieved when he said, "Your drawing is great. This is what I want," and he approved it. I was sweating it out for nothing. It's unbelievable, man. It's amazing. He's one of the kindest directors we've worked with.

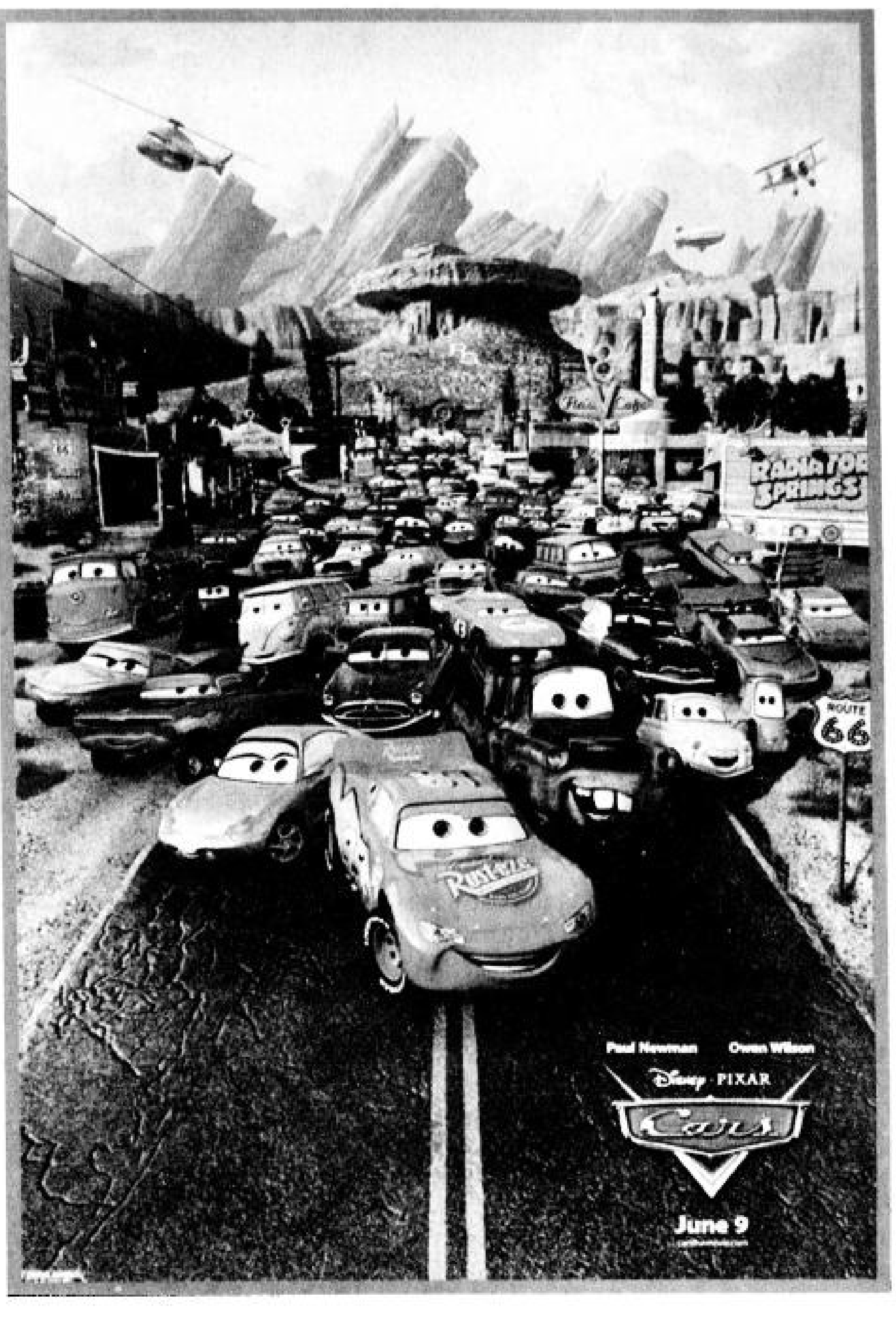
JOHN Lasseter

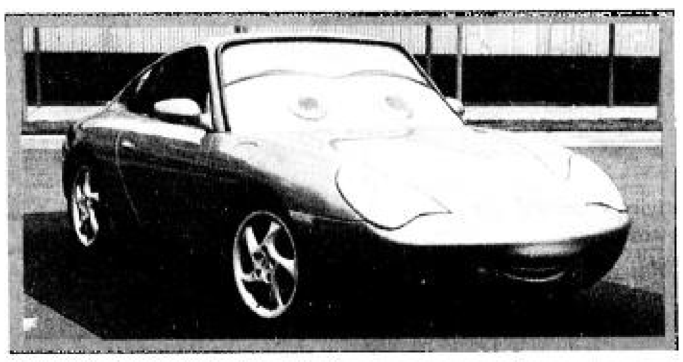
How receptive were the other directors to your ideas?

Most of the directors at Pixar are open to ideas. It just differs in the nature of each film. For example, in "Finding Nemo," it's underwater, so it's a totally different environment. If I have to design something, it's made-up. But we use references a lot, and that depends on the requirements of each project. The level of difficulty just differs. In "Cars," the director wanted the architecture to look like the real buildings of Route 66. We did a lot of research. But we had to think of improvements and tweaked them to make them more cartoony.

How do you feel when you finally watch the movies you worked on?

When our department finishes, another set of artists comes in and does their job. Even we ourselves get stunned when we see the finished product. Wow! We start from line drawings, and once we see it with texture and stuff, we ask ourselves, "Did we design that?"




REAL-LIFE version car created by Pixar.

What should aspiring artists know about working in animation?

You need a lot of focus with this job. If you choose to be an animator, expect hard work. The reality of it is you have to start at the bottom. It's a process. Research, and start young. If you're a parent and you see your kids drawing, don't stop them. Give them pencil and paper. Learning doesn't stop, even for me. With research, you learn a lot of things, even stuff that's not related to the work. Sometimes it gives you inspiration. And yes, dreams do come true. This is a manifestation of it, the proof, for me. Me, I'm a Filipino and I made it to Pixar. If I can do it, anyone can do it! If the door is shut, keep knocking. Eventually it'll open for you. Keep pushing. And keep dreaming! *Walang bayad 'yon!*

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Hepatitis B: What the Public Should Know

By: Dr. Nancy Bermal
Infectious Disease Specialist
Research Institute for Tropical Medicine

Hepatitis B is a viral hepatitis caused by the hepatitis B virus (HBV). It is a serious disease because of the seriousness of its complications though most of the cases upon diagnosis are asymptomatic.

HBV is spread by either skin puncture or mucous membrane contact with the blood or other body fluids of an infected person. The virus has the highest concentration in the blood and wound secretions. Moderate concentrations of HBV are found in semen and vaginal fluid. It is not spread by air, food, or water.

The virus is efficiently transmitted by sex contact. In the United States, it is estimated that sexual transmission accounts for about 50% of new infections among adults. The most common risk factors for sexual transmission among heterosexuals include having multiple sex partners, a history of sexually transmitted disease, or sex with a known infected person. Men who have sex with men are also at high risk of HBV transmission.

Infants born to HBV - infected mothers can get the virus from exposure to maternal blood and body fluids at the time of delivery. This is called perinatal transmission. If the mother is positive for HBsAg and HbeAg, 70%-90% of infants will become infected in the absence of post-exposure prophylaxis. The risk of perinatal transmission is about 20% if the mother is positive only for HbsAg. Up to 90% of these infected infants will become HBV carriers. Breastfeeding has not been associated with transmission of HBV, thus it is not contraindicated to breastfeed an infant born to HBV-infected mother.

The incubation period ranges from six weeks to six months. At least 50% of adults with acute hepatitis B show no symptoms. Likewise, infected children below 5 years old rarely show any symptom. Persons with acute HBV infection might present with nausea and vomiting, lack of appetite, muscle and joint pains, fever, diarrhea, headache, dark urine and yellowing of skin and eyes. Most adults eventually recover from an acute HBV infection. However, about 90% of infants, 30-60% of young children, and 5% of adults are unable to clear the infection from their bodies and become chronically infected. The Philippines is highly endemic for hepatitis B with a chronic carrier rate of 9.2%. Persons with chronic (lifelong) HBV infection are infectious and can transmit the virus to others thru sexual contact, blood donation, or sharing of toothbrushes, razors, or other personal care articles. Usually chronically infected people do not feel sick and do not realize they are infected. More often than not it is only during a routine Hepatitis B screening for employment that a chronically infected person finds out through blood testing. Chronic HBV carriers are at high risk of developing chronic liver disease, including cirrhosis (scarring of the liver), liver failure, and liver cancer.

Hepatitis B can only be diagnosed by blood testing. The blood tests can tell whether or not a person is currently infected or has been infected in the past. If the test indicates a person has been infected in the past, testing will also determine whether the person has developed protective antibodies to the virus or whether they still have virus in the blood, indicating they might have chronic HBV infection. These tests are available in several medical centers around the country.

Once diagnosed, a consultation with a gastroenterologist is advised since there are several available medications that may help a person who has chronic HBV infection though not everyone is a candidate for these medications.

Hepatitis B infection can be prevented thru vaccination. Hepatitis B vaccine is given as routine immunization starting at birth. Infants born to HBV infected mother should receive post-exposure prophylaxis within the first 24 hours of life. They are given Hepatitis B immunoglobulin and Hepatitis B vaccines to prevent perinatal transmission. The hepatitis B vaccine is one of the more readily available and less expensive vaccines and is safe and effective not only for children but for adults as well.

For protection against vaccine preventable diseases, ask your doctor about the suitable vaccines for every member of the family, depending on their age and lifestyle. GSK Family Vaccines is partnering with the medical community, so more patients can discover their power to protect their loved ones inside and outside the home. Get more health information and advice on family protection through vaccination.

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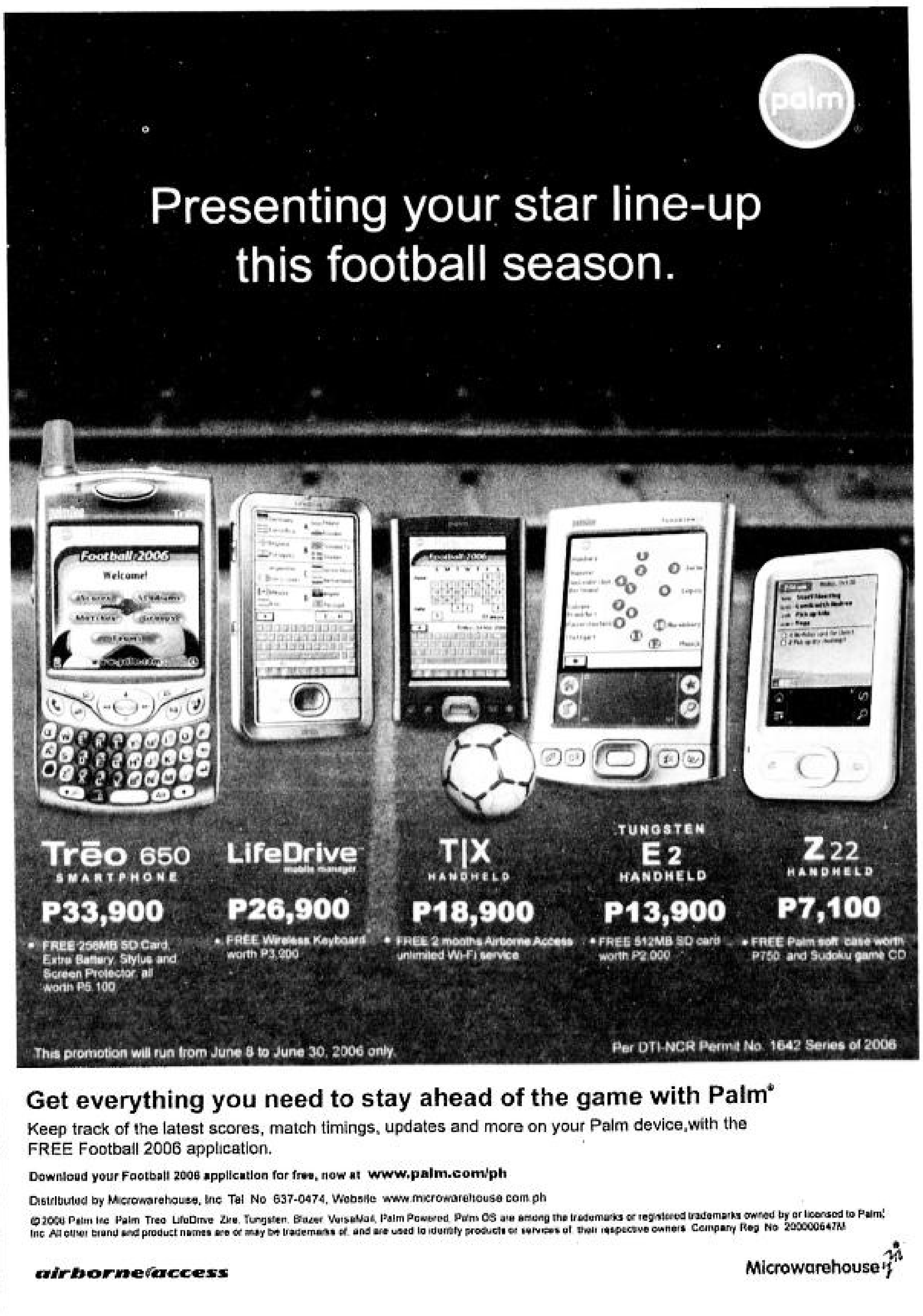
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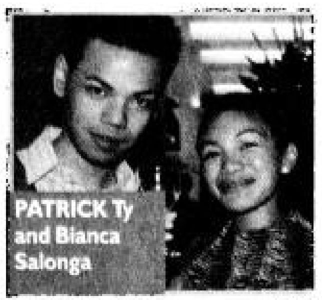

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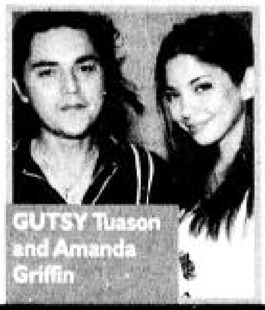

GUTSY Tuason and Amanda Griffin

LOPE Navo and Sara Black

BIANCA Fernandez and Kelly Misa

KARLA Alindahao and Corine Alegre

CRISTINA Tuason, Luis Espiritu and Lisa Tuason-Ravago

HINDY Weber-Tantoco and daughter, Lisa Rossiter, Joel Tantoco

RONNIE Salvacion, Liz Uy, Angel Jacob and Ronald Pineda

TINA Tinio, Tessa Dragon, Xeng Zulueta and Monica de Castro

When good things happen to good people

By Katrina A. Holigores

PEOPLE TALK ABOUT SYNERgy, synchronicity, harmony, orgies.. err no, stop that. Collaboration, teamwork are other words that describe the coming together of like minds, bodies and souls. It's hard enough working with or as a group and there is no code (Da Vinci or otherwise) for the perfect marriage between professional and personal or creative and commercial. But hey, every now and then, life has a way of throwing you into the path of "the One."

Even on a professional level, finding someone on a similar vibratory level is a utopia most ambitious humans long for. Just like falling in love, you can never tell who will fall right into your career lap. Many serendipitous (or some say predestined) meetings may have an outcome of highly inspired proportions. One example of this is when Cristina Tuason and Lisa Tuason-Ravago, founders of trü bags (who continually patronize Filipino craftsmanship and materials for their high quality wares) combined forces with stylist and mentor to many of today's creative "who-to-knows," Luis Espiritu. The result was a very well-attended photo exhibit sponsored by Epson, Restoration and Spectra Digital at the Powerplant Mall. Espiritu for trü, a super-powered line of bags was born.

Super-powered? Yes. The first series entitled "Lolita" is made of eight original styles, done in homage to eight spirited women. Each bag is multi-textural, created with a mix of at least three different elements. Bags are super exclusive due to serial numbers imprinted on each limited edition bag (only 24 pieces per style). Wait, before the more cynical of you write this off as a press release, let me get to the "good" stuff.

Nowadays, all we get in our lives, is a s-load of bad news. People would rather err on the conservative. Radical ideas are met with a phalanx of devil's advocates before they have a chance to take shape. All in all, it's a bleak outlook for the more artistic and the unconventional. At the end of the day, we all have to make a living and some have to compromise their ideals. Basically, the utopia I mentioned earlier tends to become more and more elusive. So when the "Lolita Project" came up, it was like the mountain had come to Mohammed. Cristina, Lisa and Luis empowered their contacts, mostly up and coming if not already established entities in the fields of photography, make-up, styling, and fashion to create their own photo per bag style. After being assigned both a bag model and a human "model" the artists were pretty much left on their own to do as they please. Talk about a deep, glorious breath for creativity. What was ironic was that in the end, both the "client" and "suppliers" were moved by their experiences. Can you imagine doing what you love with people you actually LIKE?

Like begets like as they say, so let the good times roll.

The ESPIRITU for trü Line is available at the trü boutique, 2/F Power Plant Mall, Rockwell.

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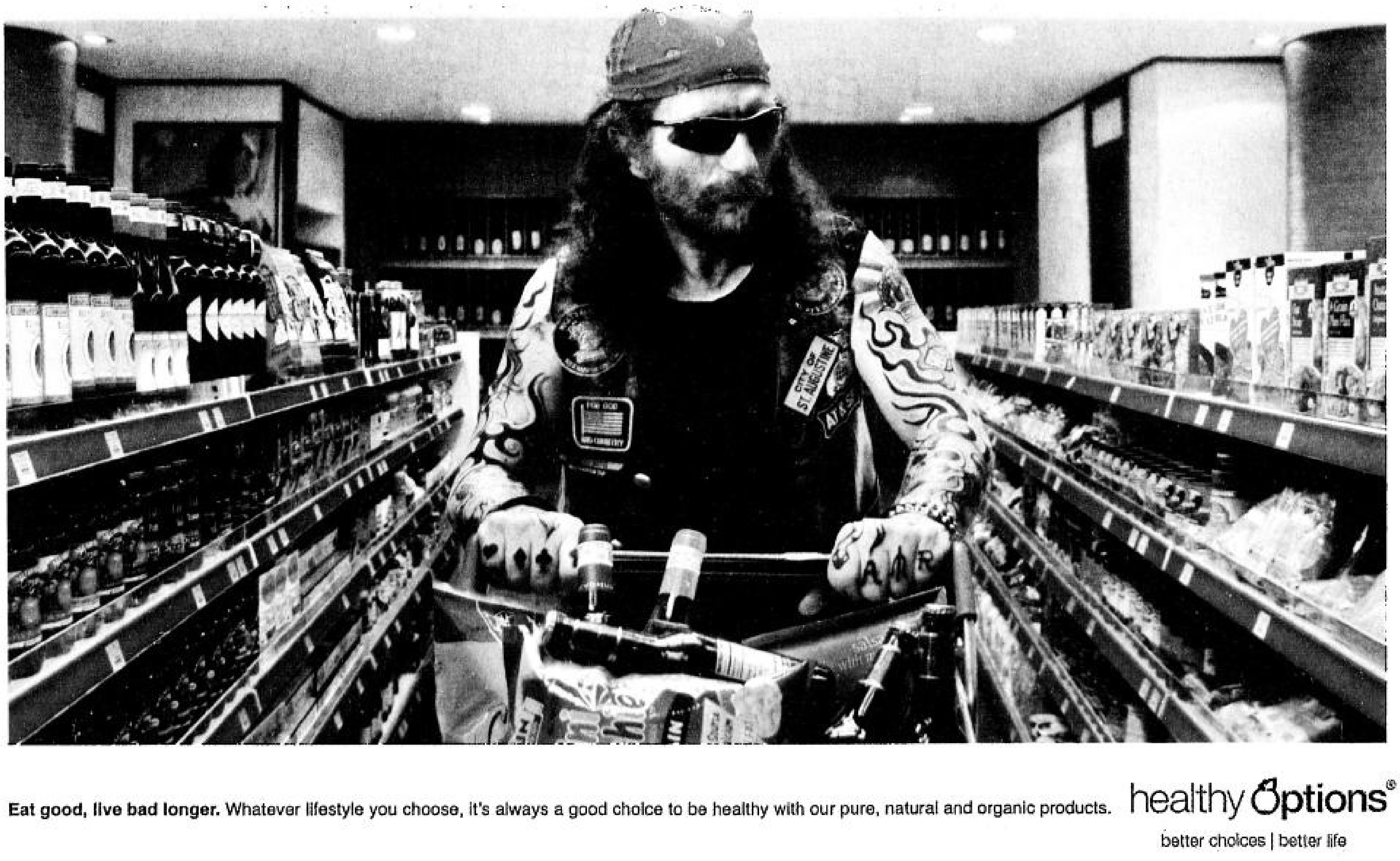

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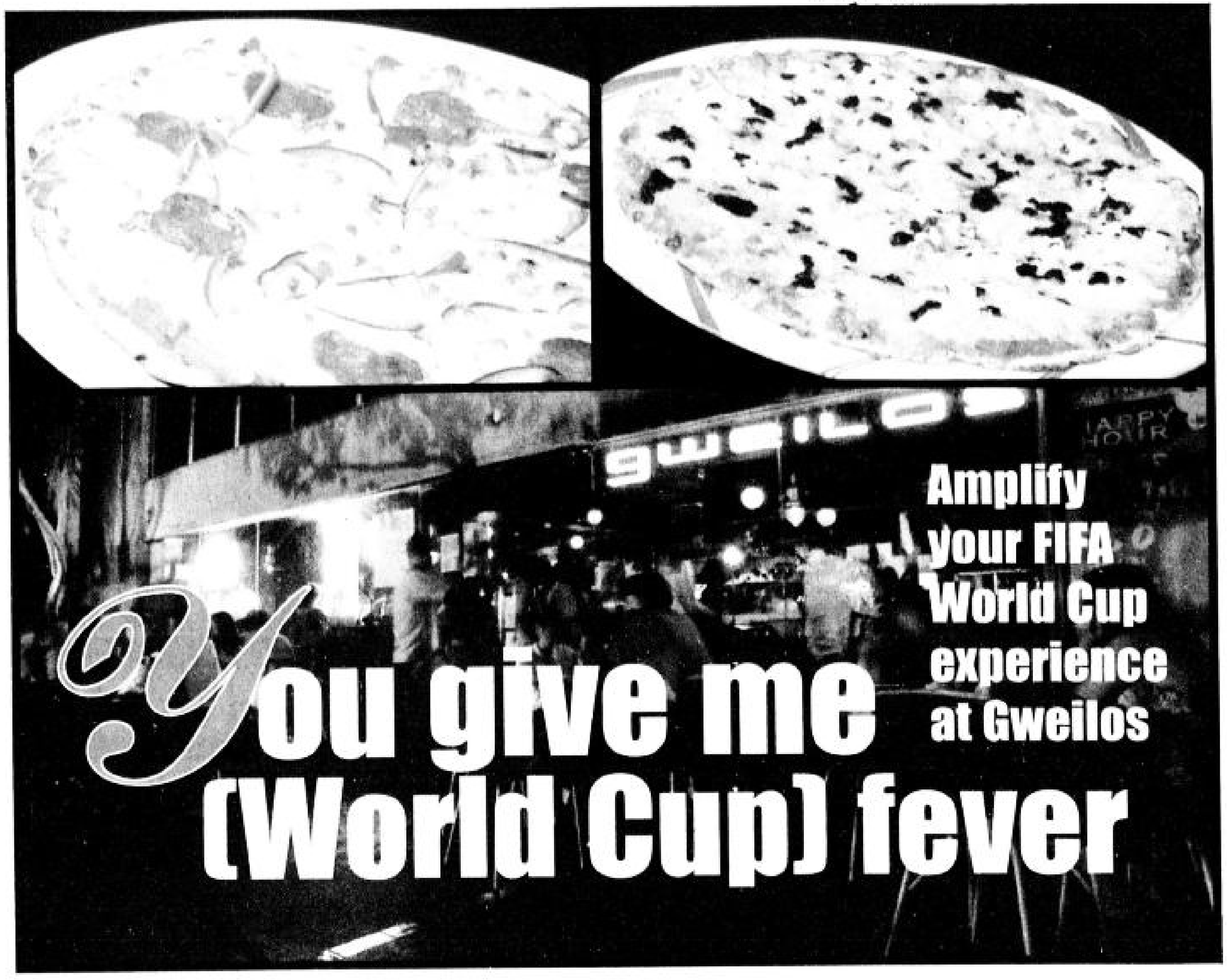

By Pam Pastor

WHAT IS BETTER THAN watching the FIFA World Cup 2006 from your own living room? Enjoying the action with good chow and booze while surrounded by other enthusiastic soccer fans, of course.

Gweilos offers this experience at both their bars—in Legaspi Village, Makati and Eastwood.

Four years ago, the owners of Gweilos discovered a fluke. Because the televisions inside their Makati bar was hooked up to Dream cable, which was airing World Cup games during that season, people kept coming in, asking them to switch the channel to the games.

Somehow, without them planning it, one of Makati's best-kept secrets turned into a favorite World Cup hangout of local soccer fans.

This year, Gweilos worked with Solar Sports, the official broadcast partner of the FIFA World Cup 2006, to provide an amplified soccer experience for enthusiasts. All 64 games will be shown live on big screens (the better to see the action with) at both Gweilos bars.

While watching the game, sports fans can enjoy some of Gweilos' most popular menu items including the yummy Native Pizza (*tuyo, kesong puti* and pesto), fried chicken, *sisig* rice, sizzling salmon belly and fried siomai. Beer will overflow too. And at P240 for a bucket of 6 bottles, why not?

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Gweilos, which has been around for a few years now, is known for its laidback atmosphere. People would have no qualms about going there in shorts and flip flops to enjoy a drink or two (or 10) with friends. One of Super!'s anti-it establishments, Gweilos is where *barongs* and long-sleeved shirts mix with flip flops and even sweaty badminton gear. It is definitely the opposite of your typical hoity-toity nightspot—and a lot of people appreciate that. Noel Nieva, one of the owners says, "If Bill and Ted or Beavis and Butthead put up a bar, this would be it."

Gweilos Makati is normally filled with people from the nearby offices on weeknights while Gweilos Eastwood is packed with college kids on weekends. "We have a lot of people from different industries coming in—a lot of them from advertising," says Noel. "We want people to think of Gweilos as 'their own place.'"

Music also plays a big part in the Gweilos story. Owner Mario de Castro said, "We take music seriously. After Mojofly, Kitchie Nadal built her following here for a year by playing every Friday. Orange and Lemons spent two years playing at Gweilos every Wednesday."

While Eastwood has become Gweilos' venue for local bands, the Makati bar has its musical lineup that people look forward to.

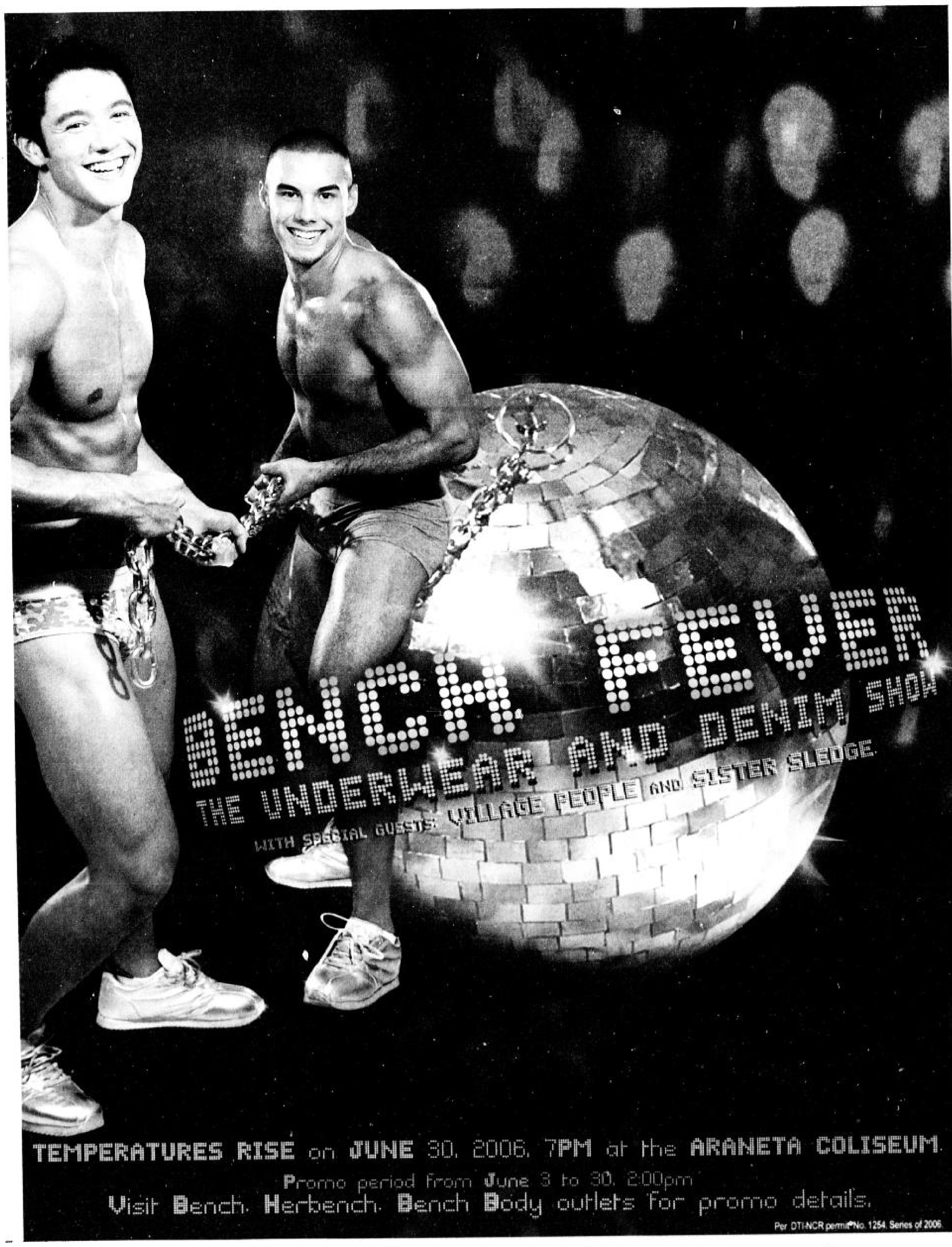
"On Mondays we have I Don't Like Mondays with DJ Ro who plays 60s, 70s and 80s rock. On Tuesdays we have Slack Radio with DJ Rio. On Wednesdays we have Willy Wanka's Music Factory. Friday is our band night. On Thursdays and Saturdays, we have iTunes as a DJ," says Mario, laughing.

The owners named Gweilos after the Chinese slang that people in Hong Kong use to describe expats. Although it literally means "white devil," "white ghost" or "ghost man," the word soon had a positive ring to it—with expats being viewed as a purveyor of the good life. Noel said, "These guys know how to have fun which we have by way of the booze, the cheap food and the music."

And this month, they're adding one more thing to the formula—soccer.

Exciting games, good chow, overflowing booze. Now who wouldn't get a kick out of that?

Gweilos Makati, located at the ground floor of GKY Bldg. 109 C. Palanca St., Legaspi Village, is open from 10 a.m. to 2 a.m. Mondays to Fridays and from 10 a.m. to 3 a.m. on Saturdays. Gweilos Eastwood, located at Fuente Circle, Eastwood Citywalk 2 Libis, is open from 10 a.m. to 2 a.m. Mondays to Fridays, 10 a.m. to 4 a.m. on Saturdays and 10 a.m. to 2 a.m. on Sundays. Call 817-6083 and 421-2283.


BENCH FEVER
THE UNDERWEAR AND DENIM SHOW
WITH SPECIAL GUESTS VILLAGE PEOPLE AND SISTER SLEDGE.
TEMPERATURES RISE on JUNE 30, 2006, 7PM at the ARANETA COLISEUM.
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Visit Bench, Herbench, Bench Body outlets for promo details.
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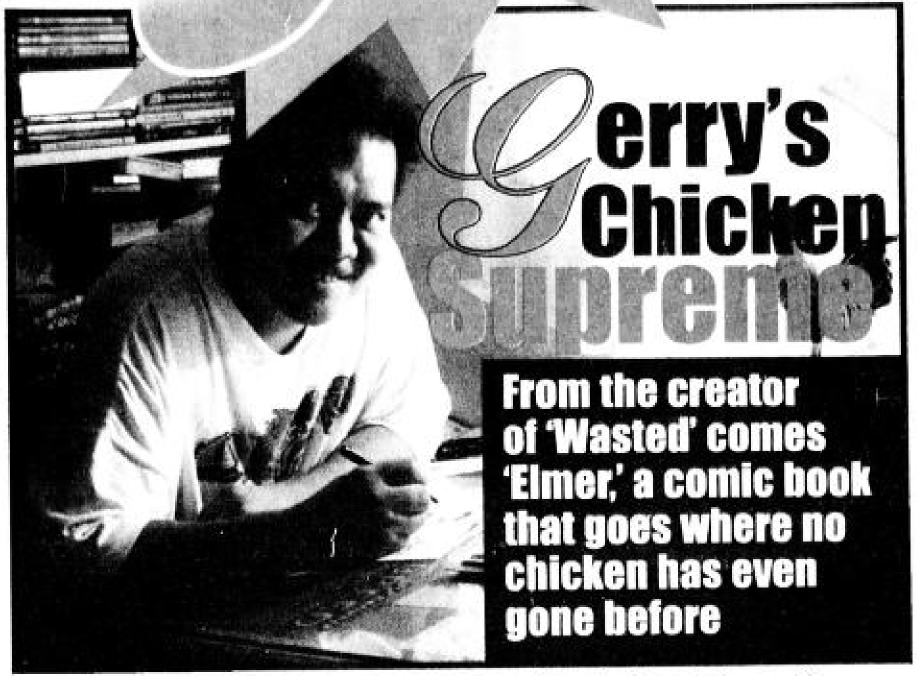
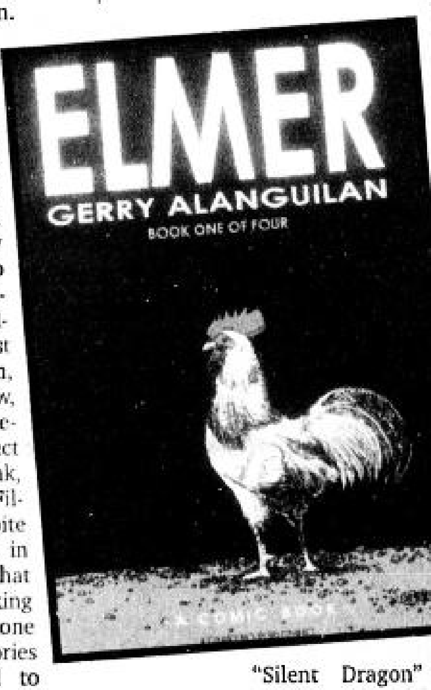


Gerry's Chicken Supreme

From the creator of 'Wasted' comes 'Elmer,' a comic book that goes where no chicken has even gone before

By Ruel S. De Vera

WHEN GERRY ALANGUILAN DEcides he's going to pull something you've never seen before, he does it. Though he's a top-shelf comic creator whose provided inks for characters like Wolverine and Superman, it's his personal projects that really push the limits of the panel. When he decided to write and draw a comic book series about a spurned lover's homicidal rampage through Metro Manila, he churned out the ultra-violent tale of catharsis and carnage called "Wasted," that rare story where readers find themselves cheering for the gun-toting madman.



Now, Alanguilan's got a chicken for you. Not just any chicken, but the ultimate chicken. Hot on the racks is "Elmer" Book 1, the first part of a four-issue series from Alanguilan's newly conjured Komikero Publishing. In it, Alanguilan explores a parallel Philippines, almost exactly like our own, except that, somehow, the chickens have developed human intellect and the ability to speak, becoming a part of Filipino society. "Despite the apparent humor in the overall concept, that of a world of talking chickens, it really is one of the most serious stories I've ever attempted to write and draw," he explains. "It's an idea and a story that I feel very strongly about and I didn't want to compromise it by removing some of its edge."

The egg behind this chicken finds its origins as far back as when Alanguilan was 13, when he had a pet chicken named Solano, as recalled in his afterword: "I admit I hadn't been as good as I should have been to my chicken, so when he suddenly attacked me shortly before he died, it made me think that they may well have emotions and could think well enough to want to poke my eye out."

This groundbreaking comic creator doesn't pull his punches with this title that, like "Wasted," is for mature readers. In the opening sequence, readers will realize that the chicken—Jake Gallo—is apparently pulling some self-loving while looking at Internet porn. "The opening scene is definitely quite risqué, but I wanted to open on a strong note, establishing that in this book, anything can happen," he says. "I also wanted to establish quite quickly the idea that chickens have indeed become as humans, and very, very few normal young lonely males would not be, even superficially, attracted to a half naked young woman, or man, if your beak pecks that way."

That chickens must deal with the problems of regular people, as well as the problems that have to do with being chickens in a man's world goes to the heart of "Elmer's" plumage. In the first issue, we accompany Jake as he tries to apply for a job, goes all pollo loco and then has to return home because something is wrong with his father—the titular chicken Elmer. Aside from the wiseacre dialogue, savor Alanguilan's insanely detailed black-and-white art, more elaborate than anything he's done so far. Inspired by the idea behind Elmer, Alanguilan's artist friends sent their own chicken fan art, and Alanguilan was so impressed with the unsolicited submissions, he imbedded them in some scenes as posters and paintings, something he plans to continue doing in the upcoming issues.

In coming issues, Alanguilan promises clues as to what enabled these chickens to evolve as well as reveals the saga of Elmer in earnest. Keep an avian eye out for "Elmer" Book 2 which should be out by the end of August.

Beyond "Elmer," fans of the San Pablo-based Alanguilan's work will see his collaboration with fellow Pinoy penciller Leinil Yu with the July release of the "Silent Dragon" trade paperback from DC/Wildstorm. "I'm also writing and drawing a humor strip for Mwahaha! called Johnny Balbona, and a full color science fiction story told two pages a month in the pages of Fudge Magazine. I'm doing bit work for US companies here and there, but for the moment, I'm concentrating on my local projects."

The world of "Elmer" is a complicated cockpit full of contradictions, including the fact that Jake, seething with outrage at being the victim of anti-chicken sentiment, disapproves of his sister May's fiancé because the fiancé is a human. "Yeah. Get over it," Jake thinks to himself. "It's so f__king easy to say."

Experience the hatching of a new avian age with "Elmer" Book 1, a profound and profane perspective on a planet gone fowl. "I'm not a vegetarian, but as I grow older I've realized the wisdom of eating less meat and more fruits and vegetables," Gerry Alanguilan explains. "But yes, I do cook and eat chicken. It's really one of my favorites."

"Elmer" Book 1 is available at Comicquest in SM Megamall, Comics Odyssey in Robinson's Place, Malate and Druid's Keep in Magallanes. For more information, log on to www.komikero.com.

An Invitation for Super peeps

¿Eres Indio?

Raya Martin's Super and so is his new film

By Pepe Diokno

AH, INDEPENDENCE DAY—IT'S A great, magical day when we all remember how much we love holidays. There's no school, the streets are empty, and for some reason the weather's perfect.

So nothing's to stop you from seeing Super filmmaker Raya Martin's "Maicling pelicula nañg ysañg indio nacional (O Ang Mahabang Kalungkutan ng Katagalugan)." Or, don't let the title stop you.

The film was written and directed by Raya; and you can expect damn solid performances from a cast led by Bodjie Pascua.

It is set in the 1890s, in the midst of a brewing Filipino revolution. It follows the awkward life of an Indio—who, as a child, is a church bell-ringer torn between his duties to the Spanish state and his people; in his teens, is caught in the pressures of the revolution; and, in his later years, is an actor in a rural community escaping his troubled soul.

It is a silent film. Yeah, that idea's foreign to a many Filipinos but many of us should realize the lack of dialogue does not take away from a film. The beauty of this movie is that it tells the Filipino experience with the universal languages of emotion, terrific imagery and moving music. These are three things that are deep in Filipino culture, and they seem to touch foreign audiences as well.

ERES INDIO/ E4

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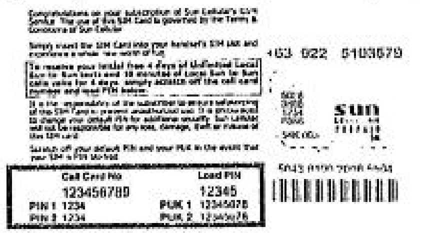
With the new Sun Cellular Prepaid SIM Pack, for the first 3 months you can enjoy 4 days of 24/7 Text Unlimited & FREE 30 minutes of Local Sun-to-Sun calls every month.

Mechanics

1. To enjoy your first month's FREE service, you must load the Call Card Number and PIN found at the back of your SIM housing, by dialing 220 and following the voice prompt.



Call Card No	Load PIN
123456789	12345
PIN 1 1234	PUK 1 12345678
PIN 2 1234	PUK 2 12345678

2. To receive your 2nd and 3rd month's FREE service, you must simply load a cumulative REGULAR LOAD of at least P30* during your 1st & 2nd month, respectively.
   - * Call Card and Xpress Load included.
   - * Give-A-Load is excluded.
   - * Amount in excess of P30 will not be credited the following month.

Example:

- Subscriber activates his SIM on April 1 and enjoys his 4 days of 24/7 Text Unlimited and free 30 minutes of Local Sun-to-Sun calls.
- Subscriber must load P30 from April 1 to 30 to receive his next 4 days of 24/7 Text Unlimited and free 30 minutes of Local Sun-to-Sun calls on May 1.
- Subscriber enjoys his 4 days of 24/7 Text Unlimited and free 30 minutes of Local Sun-to-Sun calls from May 1 to 4.
- Subscriber must load another P30 from May 1 to 31 to receive his next 4 days of 24/7 Text Unlimited and free 30 minutes of Local Sun-to-Sun calls on June 1.

3. Regular load from the following products will be considered:
   - a) Regular Call Cards (P50, 150, 300 and 500)
   - b) Xpress Load
   - c) P50 E-vouchers from 7-Eleven, Select, and Mini-Stop
   - d) Regular load from the new variants of 24/7 Call and Text Unlimited
4. The regular load (at least P30/month) you need in order to receive your 2nd and 3rd free service is a regular consumable load and is separate from the free service.

With your Sun SIM, you may load any of the following prepaid choices:

See flyers for details.

CHAMBER of PAWNBROKERS

1956
2006

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MALACAÑANG PALACE
Manila

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More power and mabuhay kayong lahat!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President of the Republic of the Philippines

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

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Governor

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Department of Finance
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Commissioner of Internal Revenue

Republic of the Philippines
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Secretary, Department of Finance

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Mabuhay!

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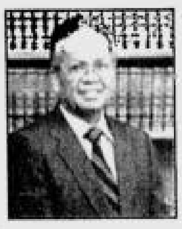
Secretary



Supreme Court of the Philippines
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Congratulations and Mabuhay!

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Manila Polo Club, SATURDAY, 10 June, 2006
Guest Speaker: H.E. Amb, JOHANNES "JAN" DE KOK
Delegation Head, European Commission
Inducting Officer:
Associate Justice CONSUELO YNARES-SANTIAGO
Host: JOHNNY LITTON

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Pawning has long been a source of capital for people in times of need, as well as means of financing business ventures.

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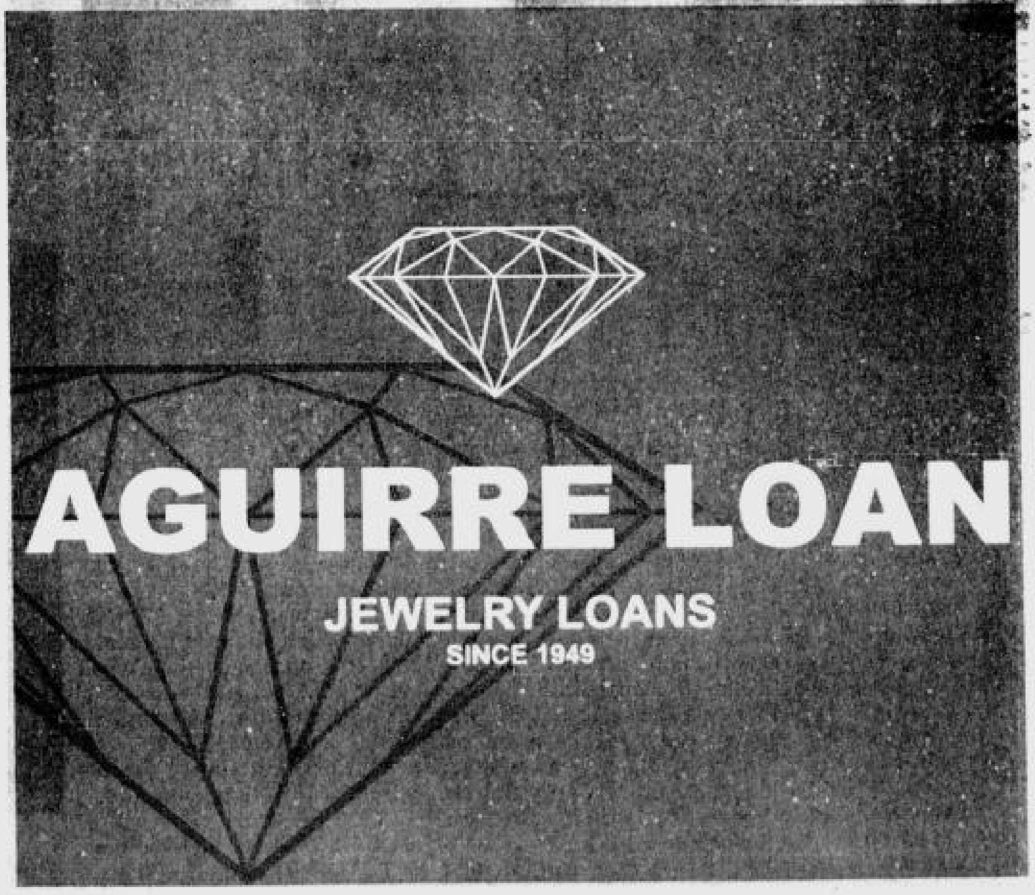
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TAMBUNTING
Since 1906
Integrity
Service
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PANGASINAN • LA UNION
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ZAMBALES

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years

in the service to the Filipino people

Officers and Directors of the Chamber of Pawnbrokers of the Philippines, Inc.

(First Row L-R)
Ms. Lina Enriquez
Assistant Treasurer
Ms. Victoria F. Villanueva
Director
Ms. Isabel A. Abella
Treasurer

(Second Row L-R)
Mr. Tito Lorete Alcala
Public Relations Officer
Mr. Mark Tomas Ablaza
Director
Ms. Michelina A. Olondriz
Corporate Secretary
Atty. Jose P. Tambunting
Director
Atty. Henry R. Villarica
VP -Internal Affairs
Mr. Celso D. L. M. Hernandez
Auditor
Mr. Luis I. Ablaza
President
Atty. Pablo P. Magno
Legal Counsel
Mr. Rodrigo C. Rivera, Jr.
Director
Ms. Rosemarie B. Bonifacio
Director
Mr. Charles Andre Lhuillier
Director
Mr. Jean Henri D. Lhuillier
VP - External Affairs

MILESTONES

Implementation of programs complementing the government's revenue collection

Active participation in B.S.P's supervision of the pawnshop industry

Signing of Security M.O.A. with P.N.P. with close coordination with N.B.I.

Continuous pawnshop business enhancement programs

Young Pawnbrokers Club: The Next Generation as Industry Innovators

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Past Presidents of the Chamber

Not in photo: FELIPE A. DAVID 1970-1971

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ENRIQUE ZALAMEA 1958-1959
CLEMENTE ABELLA 1959-1962
JOSE P. TAMBUNTING 1962-1963
GONZALO D. DAVID 1963-1964
RAMON P. TAMBUNTING 1964-1966
PEDRO B. AGUIRRE 1966-1967
FELICULA R. GALANG 1967-1968
MARCELO RAYMUNDO 1968-1969
TEMISTOCLE ELVIÑA, JR. 1969-1970
RAMON T. YUPANGCO 1971-1979
CLEMENTE ABELLA 1979-1980
MANUEL G. ALIÑO 1980-1983
Amb. PHILIPPE J. LHUILLIER 1983-1999

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FOR MAKING US NO. 1

Global Brands Award
- Most Excellent Pawnshop Chain - 2006
- Outstanding Pawnshop Chain - 2005

Year - Ender Excellence Award
- Top Pawnshop Chain of The Year - 2005

Philippine Brand Excellence Award
- Most Outstanding Pawnshop - 2005

National Shopper's Choice Award
- No. 1 Pawnshop in Eastern Visayas 2005
- No. 1 Pawnshop Company (National Award) - 2005

National Consumers Quality Award
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- Hall of Fame (Most Outstanding Pawnshop) - 2005

National Product Quality Excellence Award (Seal of Product Quality)
- Best Pawnshop Company (National Award) - 2005

Asia Pacific Excellence Award
- Outstanding Pawnshop - 2005

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celebrating its 50th Anniversary

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in the service to the Filipino people

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Ms. Victoria F. Villanueva
Director
Ms. Isabel A. Abella
Treasurer

(Second Row L-R)
Mr. Tito Lorete Alcala
Public Relations Officer
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MILESTONES

Implementation of programs complementing the government's revenue collection

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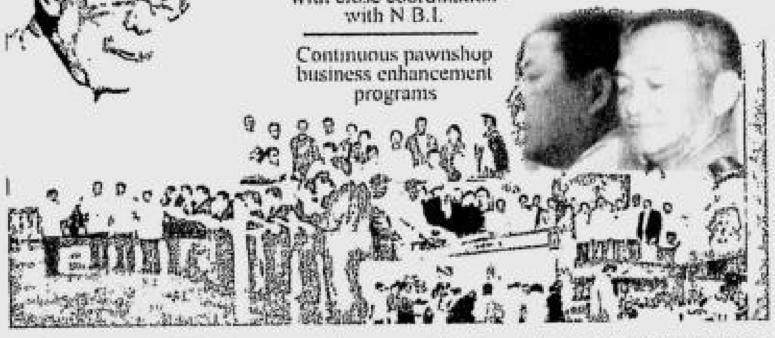

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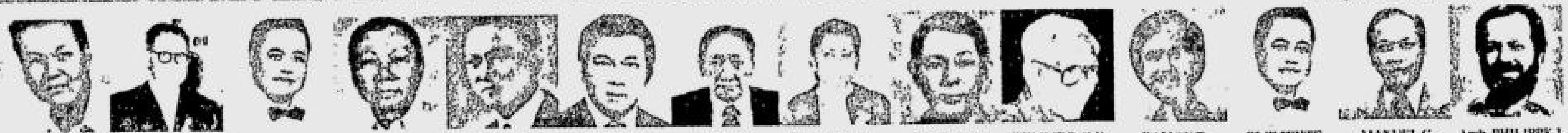

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Raya Martin's Super and so is his new film

From page E1

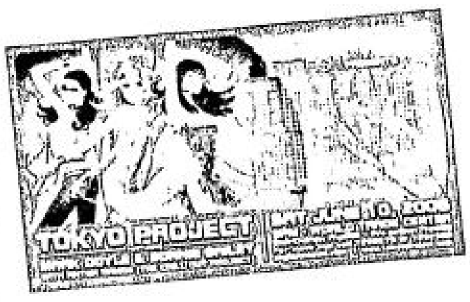
"Indio Nacional" has been selected for this year's Rotterdam International Film Festival, the 30th Hong Kong International Film Festival, 49th San Francisco International Film Festival, and the 17th Festival International du Documentaire de Marseille. It has closed the 3rd Isola Cinema Film Festival, as well.

Variety Magazine says, the film is "fascinating," and that it "confirms Martin's place as a talent to watch." Gertjan Zuillhof of the International Film Festival Rotterdam says Raya, "reinvents silent film." Roger Garcia of the San Francisco International Film Festival says the movie is, "one of the truly original works of contemporary Filipino cinema."

Woah. Double woah.

There isn't a better way to spend June the 12th. Super'll see you at the movie!

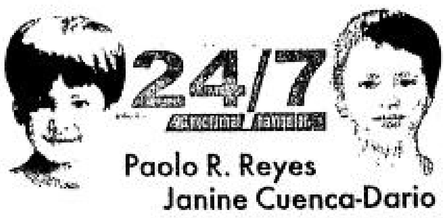
The Philippine Premiere of Raya Martin's "Maicling pelicula nañg ysañg indio nacional (O Ang Mahabang Kalungkutan ng Katagalugan)" is on June 12, 2006, 7:30 p.m. at Shangri-La Plaza. It is presented by the Ambassade de France aux Philippines as part of the 11th French Film Festival. Entrance is 50 pesos.



Oh Tokyo!

AFTER A BOUT WITH PROTRACTED legal battles and other personal tribulations on the financial front, Hed Kandi's former head honcho, DJ Mark Doyle, decided to take a gamble, raid his piggy bank, and launch a rad new record label: Tokyo Project.

The caricatured cartoon chicks and slick eye-candy illustrations of Jason Brookes may look eerily familiar, but don't be fooled. Although Doyle's debut compilation brims with the same summer vibe and "feel good" flavor, Tokyo Project takes listeners into relatively tougher late night territory. It's house music deeper (and dirtier!) than ever before.



Paolo R. Reyes
Janine Cuenca-Dario

Gates open at 9 p.m tonight for all to experience for the high-flying UK DJ's funky blend of upfront house to Manila (albeit with a totally new spin) through the highly anticipated "Tokyo Disco" ball. Joining Doyle at the decks is DJ Anton Ramos and the indefatigable dance floor diva, Bonnie Bailey (yes, you guessed right, the voice behind 2005's chart-buster "Ever After").

Tickets are available at Folded & Hung, Music One, Tower Records, and O Music outlets. Call 7238673 or 7232523.

Other Super! 24/7 events:

June 10, Saturday

Tokyo Project with DJ Mark Doyle & Bonnie Bailey at World Trade Center; Up Dharma Down at 6Underground; The Bitter Pill, Nyco Maca, Blast Ople, Salindiwa, and Indio I at Sagujo; Johnny Alegre Affinity at Ardis Jupiter St.; MYMP at Centerstage SM Megamall; Spy & Makatha at 70s Bistro; Project Mayhem at Conspiracy; Urban Groove: R&B Night at Citrus; Salsa Night at Ricco-Renzo Café; DJ Martin Pulgar at Embassy Club; Campusition Night at Mag:net Café; Pump Saturdays at Jill's; DJ Badboy Jeff at Temple; Soundsgood DJs at Embassy Cuisine; DJ Bam del Valle at Government; DJ Scratchmark & Bliss at Prince of Jaipur; Massive Saturdays at Bed; Joint band at Off the Grill; Classified at Dish; Rockin' Revival at 19 East Sucat; Wiseguys at Suburbia Malate

June 11, Sunday

Pariscape/Parisstreet: Juan Caguicla Exhibit at Greenbelt 3; Clowns Without Borders Photo Exhibit at Greenbelt 3; Champagne Lunch at Paseo Uno (Mandarin Oriental); Champagne Brunch at Spiral (Hotel Phil. Plaza); Acoustic Night at Phi Bar

June 12, Monday

Freedom Jam: Independence Day Celebration with Joey Ayala, Cynthia Alexander, Bayang Barrios at & Noel Cabangon at Conspiracy; Sitti: Bossa Night at Stonehouse; Salsa Night w/ Salsa Filipinas at Mezze; Ethan band at Temple; I Don't Like Mondays! w/ DJ Ro at Gweilos Makati; Silk & Steel at Merk's; Teresa Avila at The Tivoli; Eastwind Jazz Trio at Captain's Bar; Follies de Mwah at Club Mwah

June 13, Tuesday

Death by Tampon, Late Isabel, Isha, PG, & Sun Valley Crew at Saguijo; Up Dharma Down & Tupada at Conspiracy; Wahijuara at 70s Bistro; MYMP at Dish; Sitti at Tavern on the Square; Kickback Tuesdays at Manila DJ Club; Juicy Nytlife at Citrus
Guarana at Café Havana Greenbelt; Acoustic Night at Temple; Spirit of '67 at Captain's Bar

June 14, Wednesday

Rivermaya at Dish; Orange & Lemons at 70s Bistro; Urbandub, Angulo, & Switch at Saguijo; Weekend Wednesdays w/ DJ Boyet Almazan at Strumm's; DJ Steve Mills at Absinth; DJ Papi Santos at Mezze; DJs Karl Ty & Cao Ocampo at Embassy Cuisine; Funksouljah at Manila DJ Club; Birthday Bash at Citrus; DJs Mars Miranda & Johnyverse at Embassy Club; Willy Wanka's Music Factory w/ DJ Joffy Cruz at Gweilos Makati; DJ Crash at Temple; DJ Brit at Gov't; Double Happiness at Prince of Jaipur; Jazz Night at Mag:net Café; Julia Duncan at Merk's; Rockin' Revival at Conway's Bar

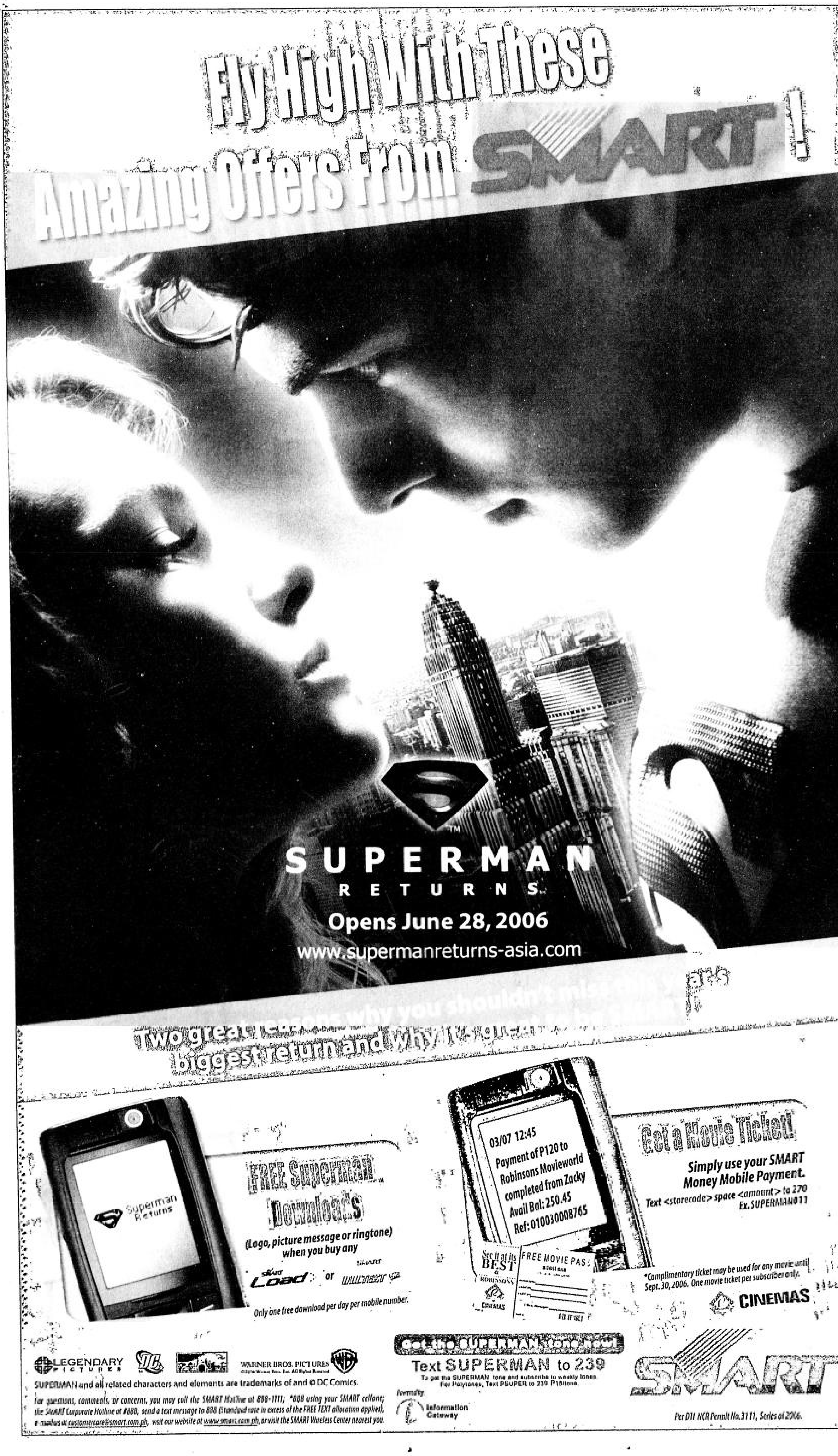
June 15, Thursday

Screening of Luc Besson's "Angel-A" at Greenbelt Cinemas; Brownman Revival & Badjao Roots at 70s Bistro; Pinoy Soul Movement w/ Sino Sikat? & Cosmic Love at Conspiracy; Sandwich, Imago, Loquy, True Faith, & Color it Red at Saguijo; RJ Jacinto at Captain's Bar; Reggae Night at 6Underground; BBC's SweetSuiteSoul w/ DJ Mike Constantino at Sake Lab; GottaHaveHouse! at Capone's; GSM Liquor Spill at Citrus; SPIT at Mag:net Café ; G Lounge at Mezze; Latina Thursday at Prince of Jaipur; Fluxxe: Whatever Thursdays at Manila DJ Club; Supahstar DJ Thursdaze at Bed; DJ Badboy Jeff at Temple

June 16, Friday

NBK's For the Love of House at Embassy Club; 4th Manila Jazz Festival at Market!Market! Central Plaza; Bamboo at 6Underground; Angulo, Chicosci, Kala, Deliquentres, Urbandub, Sandwich, Greyhoundz, Neruda, & Teardrop at Saguijo; The Cascades at Araneta Coliseum; Johnny Alegre Affinity at Penguin Café; Joey Ayala at Conspiracy; Decadance w/ Boyet Almazan at Jill's; Sitti: Bossa Night at Stonehouse; DJs Karl Ty & GP Reyes at Citrus; DJ Owens Sun at Embassy Club; HouseBeats at Mati; MyHOUSE at M Café; DJ Marie Garcia at Embassy Cuisine; Happy Yummy w/ DJ Brit at Government; Jive Fridays at Temple; The Jerks at 70s Bistro; Route 70 & Dawn at Merk's; DJ Scratchmark at Prince of Jaipur; Mitch Valdes at Captain's Bar; Rockin' Revival at 19 East Sucat

Schedules may change without prior notice. For more information and a complete listing of events, text 24/7 through your mobile phone and send to 2949 (Globe) and 209 (Smart). Log on to mag24-7.com or pick up your free copy of 24/7 NOCTURNAL NAVIGATOR at bars and restaurants around the city. Submit your schedules before Wednesday to events@mag24-7.com and mag24_7@yahoo.com.



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